

CAPTAIN AMERICA

"A series that every Marvel fan should read."
— Nerd Initiative



STRACZYNSKI
SAIZ
MAGNO
HOLLINGSWORTH
GRUNDETJERN

BROXTON RISING

MARVEL

“Showcases the character’s depth and complexity, while also offering a timely commentary on the political landscape.” — The Comic Book Dispatch

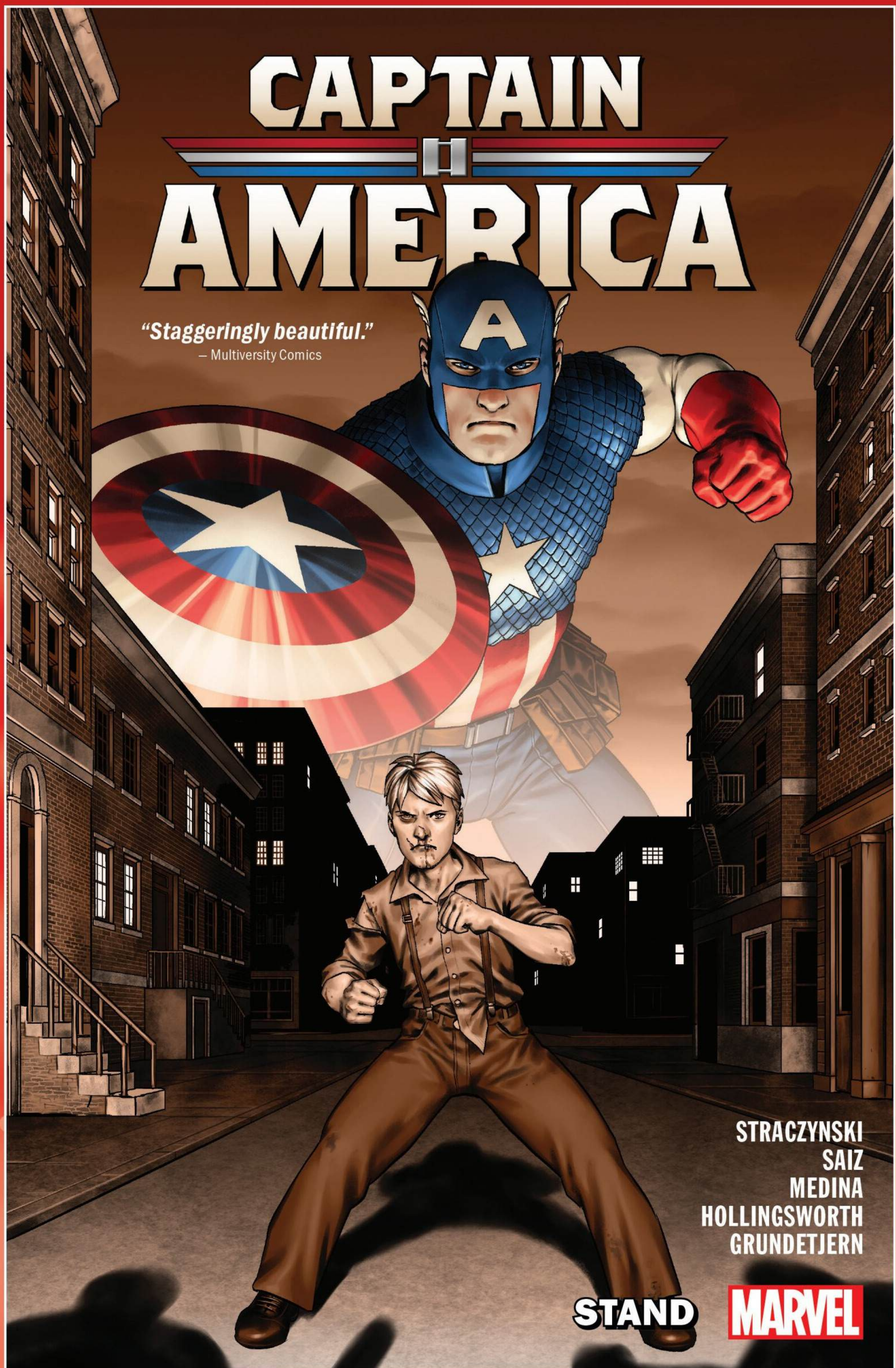
VISIONARY WRITER J. MICHAEL STRACZYNSKI
CONCLUDES HIS BLOCKBUSTER RUN!

AS THE KRAKOAN AGE ENDS, mutants need allies more than ever — and Captain America is determined to get his group of mutant change agents to the Front Door Cabaret alive. As Death pulls out all the stops to destroy them, Captain America has a choice: protect the change agents or safeguard his own future. But one of the rescued mutants has their own ideas and intends to make the decision for him! Then Straczynski closes out his saga by uniting his three signature Marvel characters as a legendary new Warriors Three! Steve Rogers needs friends now more than ever, and he finds them in Thor and Spider-Man! But as this trio is drawn to Broxton, Oklahoma — site of the Thunder God’s greatest shame — can Cap and Spidey help free Thor of his past, or is Broxton’s history doomed to repeat itself forever?



MARVEL

COLLECTED EDITIONS



Captain America by J. Michael Straczynski Vol. 1: Stand

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AVAILABLE IN PRINT OR DIGITAL WHEREVER BOOKS ARE SOLD!

CAPTAIN II AMERICA

BROXTON RISING





AS THE WORLD TEETERED ON THE BRINK OF GLOBAL WAR, FRAIL STEVE ROGERS ENTERED A SECRET LABORATORY AND WAS TRANSFORMED INTO THE AMERICAN SUPER-SOLDIER! FOR FIVE THRILLING YEARS, HE FOUGHT THE AXIS POWERS—UNTIL A FREAK STROKE OF FATE THREW HIM INTO SUSPENDED ANIMATION. WHEN HE AWOKE, HE WAS A MAN DECADES OUT OF HIS TIME! SINCE THAT FATEFUL DAY, STEVE ROGERS HAS SOUGHT HIS DESTINY IN THIS BRAVE NEW WORLD!

CAPTAIN AMERICA BROXTON RISING

Death is targeting change agents, and his sister, Lyra — the embodiment of life — has recruited Captain America to defend a magical safe house known as the Front Door Cabaret from annihilation at her brother's hands! Steve successfully guarded the Front Door from Death's first attack and located more change agents to bring under the Cabaret's protection — Carlos Alvarez Garcia, A.K.A. Skinz, a mutant able to manipulate his own shed skin; Becca, a mutant so attuned to technological interfaces that she can use them to predict the future; and a mysterious clairvoyant named Malik, who is also Death's most coveted prize. Now, with the help of Malik's protectors, the Guardian and Julie, they're making their way back to the Cabaret. But Death is not far behind...

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CAPTAIN AMERICA



No 12

THE LAST STAND OF THE FRONT DOOR PART ONE



HOW LONG UNTIL WE LAND IN NEW YORK?

A LITTLE OVER TWO HOURS, CARLOS. THEN AN HOUR'S DRIVE FROM THE PRIVATE AIRFIELD TO THE FRONT DOOR CABARET.

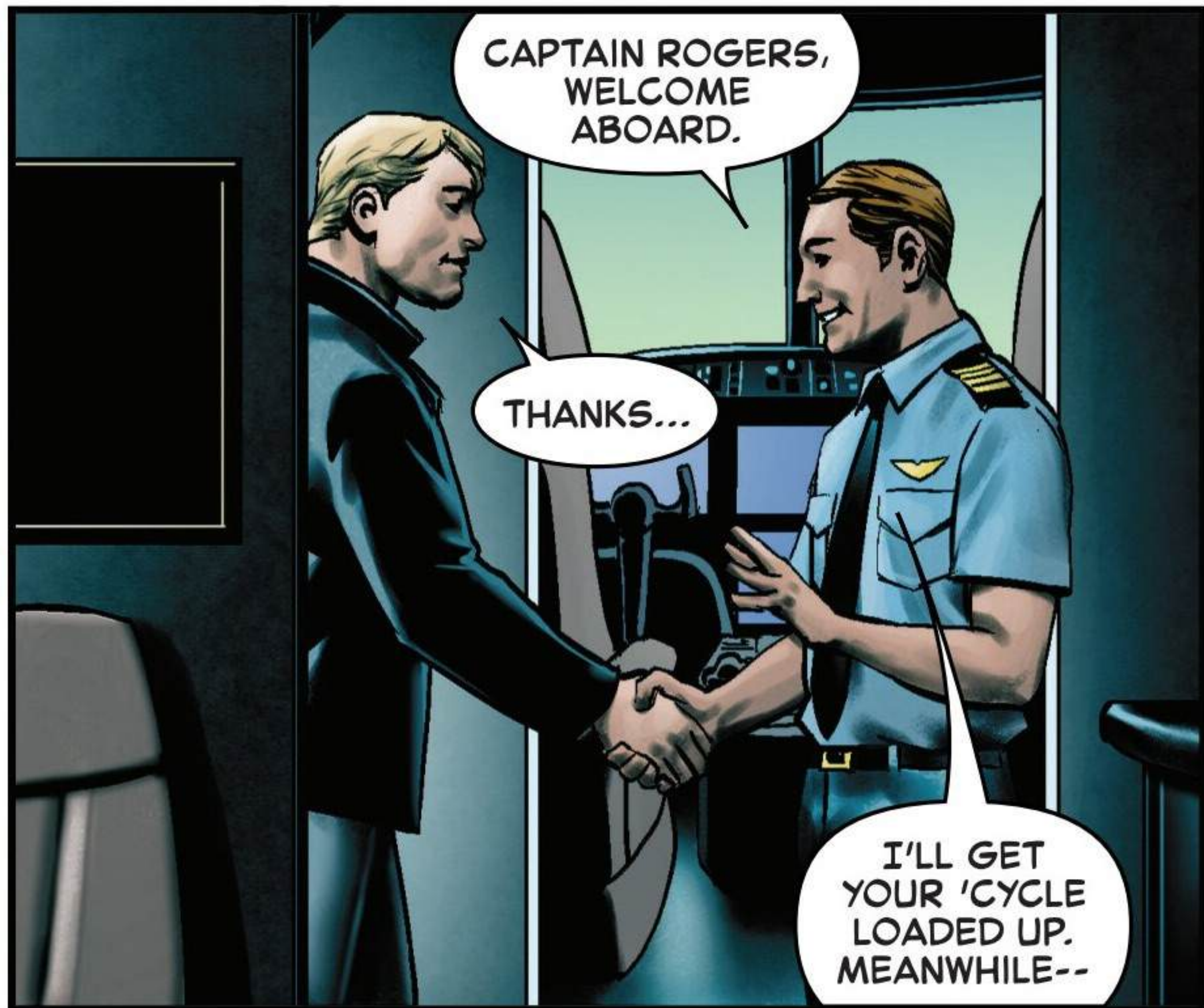
DRIVE? CAN'T WE JUST HELICOPTER OVER?



PUTTING EVERYONE INTO A SINGLE CHOPPER OVER NEW YORK WHEN WE'RE PRETTY SURE *DEATH* IS WAITING FOR US THERE, BECCA...IT'S TOO BIG A RISK. INDIVIDUAL MOVING TARGETS WILL BE SAFER.

ALSO LESS OF A DROP IF ANYTHING GOES WRONG.

THAT TOO.



CAPTAIN ROGERS, WELCOME ABOARD.

THANKS...

I'LL GET YOUR 'CYCLE LOADED UP. MEANWHILE--



--YOU MAY WANT TO OPEN THAT ENVELOPE.

I'M GUESSING IT'S FOR YOU, BUT I'M NOT TOUCHING IT.

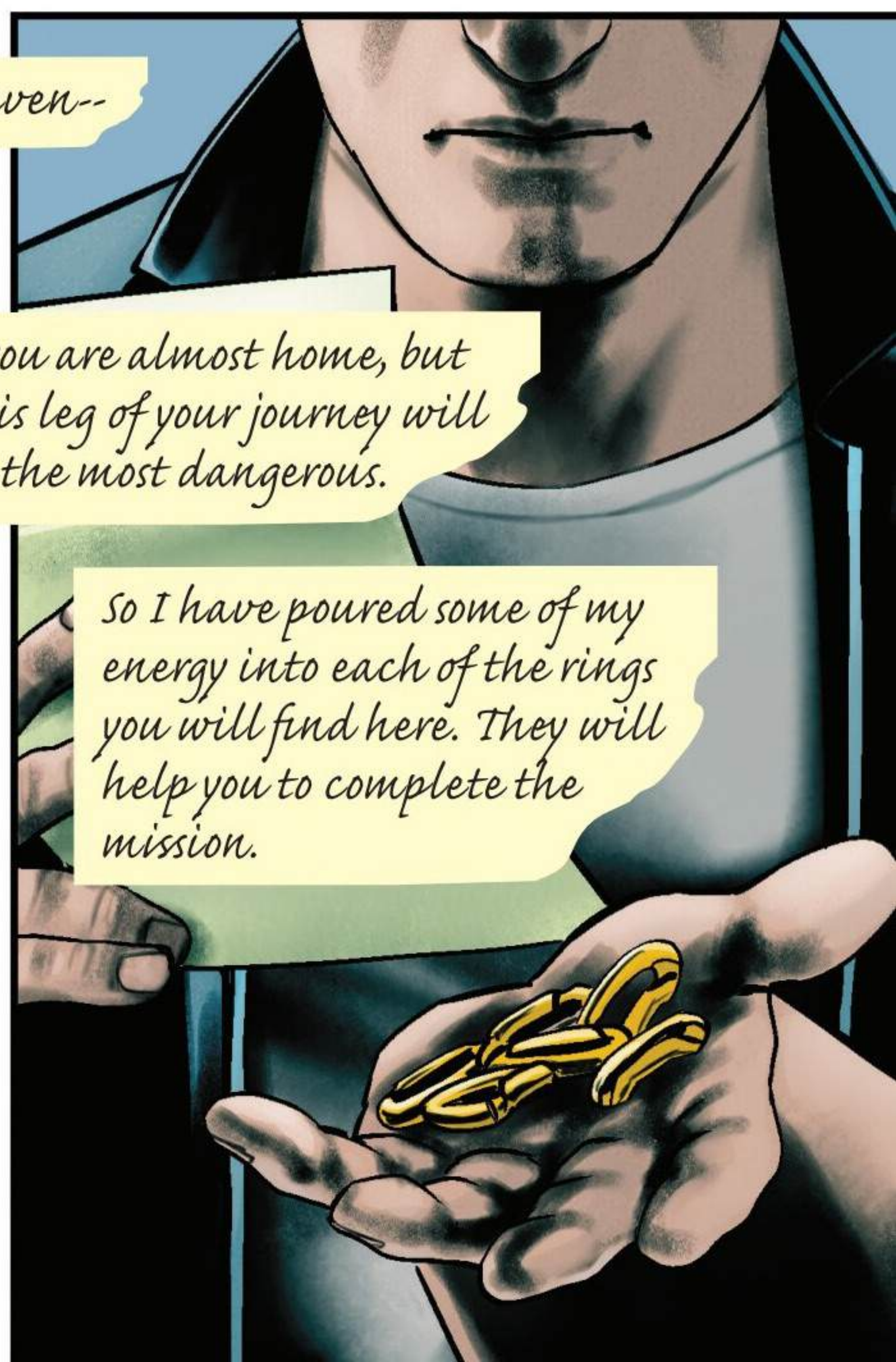
WHY NOT?

BECAUSE IT WASN'T ON THE SEAT WHEN WE TOOK OFF TO COME HERE.



Steven--

--you are almost home, but this leg of your journey will be the most dangerous.



So I have poured some of my energy into each of the rings you will find here. They will help you to complete the mission.



Though my BROTHER continues to BLOCK my efforts to locate him, I believe he has chosen to join the battle PERSONALLY, assuming physical form just as I did, to do whatever is required to ensure that none of you--



--especially the most powerful among you, ever reach here alive.

When you arrive, we will be taking extraordinary steps to ensure his safety and that of the others here. Which brings me to something I have decided you must know, a choice only you can--



CAPTAIN--



SORRY, NEVER SURE HOW I SHOULD REFER TO YOU WHEN YOU'RE NOT IN UNIFORM.

JUST STEVE IS FINE, JULIE.

IT'LL TAKE A BIT TO REFUEL AND LOAD UP... CAN I TALK TO YOU ALONE FOR A MINUTE?

SURE THING.



AND SHE WONDERS--

MALIK'S SUPPOSED TO BE SO POWERFUL. SO WHY DOESN'T HE SEE WHAT I'M GOING TO DO? WHAT I HAVE TO DO?

AND WHY DO I FEEL LIKE SOMEONE SHOULD BE HANDING ME A POUCH WITH THIRTY PIECES OF SILVER RIGHT ABOUT NOW?



"SO, HOW LONG HAVE YOU WORKED WITH MALIK, JULIE?"



TWO YEARS--
EVER SINCE MY PARENTS
DIED. HE DIDN'T KNOW THEM
BUT HE STILL BLAMES
HIMSELF FOR WHAT
HAPPENED.



HE HAD A VISION ABOUT THEM,
AND ME, BUT BY THE TIME HE
FOUND US, IT WAS TOO LATE.
I HAD NOWHERE TO GO, SO
HE ASKED ME TO COME
WITH HIM ON THIS
JOURNEY.

AND
IT'S BEEN...
AMAZING.



I'M NOT STUPID. I KNOW YOU'RE
ABOUT TO GO TO WAR AGAINST
DEATH ITSELF. BUT IT'S A WAR THAT
CAN'T BE WON, NOT BY LYRA OR YOU
OR EVEN MALIK. SO PLEASE...
LET MALIK GO.

JULIE--

WE ALL DIE
SOONER OR LATER. YOU
REALLY THINK YOU STAND
A CHANCE AGAINST THE
NATURAL ORDER OF THE
UNIVERSE?



YOU. CAN'T. BEAT. DEATH.
NO ONE CAN. DON'T TRY
TO PATRONIZE ME--

JULIE--

--AND
DON'T JUST
TELL ME I'M
WRONG--

YOU'RE
NOT
WRONG.



I'M NOT KIDDING MYSELF. AS SOON
AS I FIGURED OUT THE KIND OF
FIGHT I WAS BEING PULLED INTO,
I KNEW, RIGHT THEN, THAT WE
COULDN'T WIN.

THEN
WHY DO
IT?

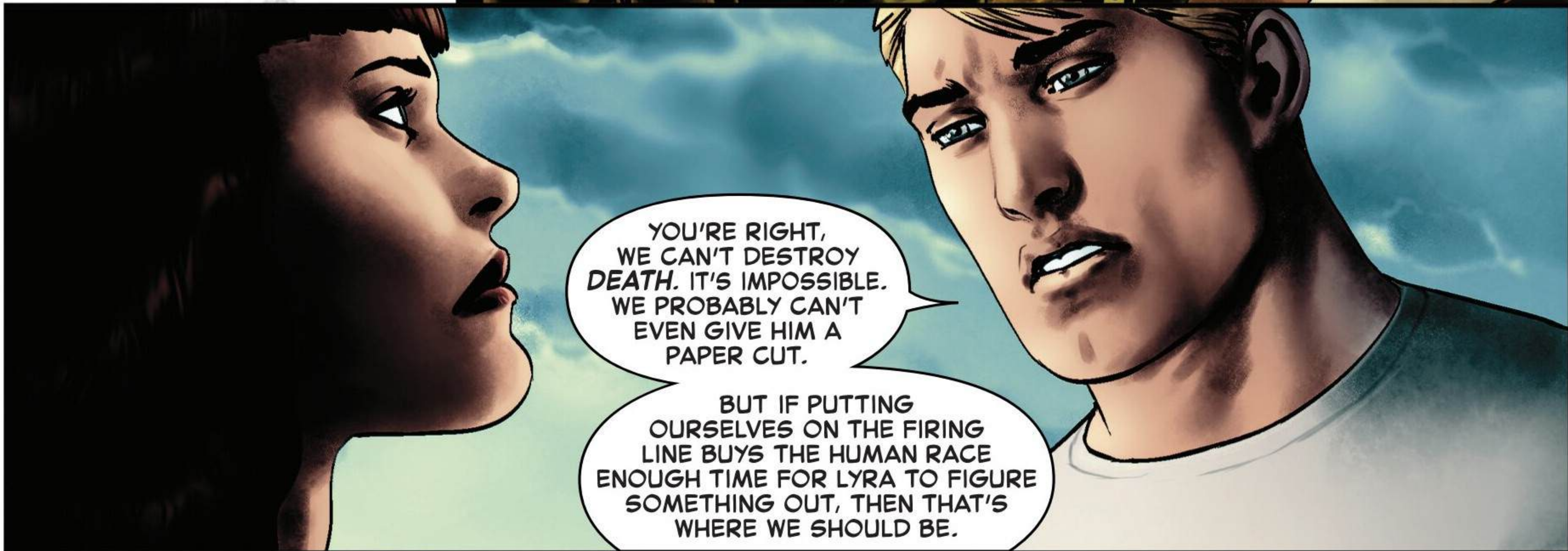


THERE'S AN ORDER EVERY SOLDIER KNOWS, EXPECTS AND DREADS. IT COMES WHEN YOUR C.O. LOOKS AT THE MAP, SEES WHERE THE ENEMY IS, WHAT THEY'RE DOING AND WHERE THEY'RE GOING, AND KNOWS THEY HAVE TO BE SLOWED DOWN OR STOPPED...NO MATTER THE COST.



"SOMETIMES YOU FIGHT THE BATTLE BECAUSE YOU THINK YOU CAN **WIN**. OTHER TIMES--

"--YOU FIGHT THE BATTLE EVEN THOUGH YOU KNOW YOU CAN'T WIN, BECAUSE THE JOB ENDS WITH MAKING SURE THE **OTHER** GUYS DON'T WIN EITHER."



YOU'RE RIGHT, WE CAN'T DESTROY **DEATH**. IT'S IMPOSSIBLE. WE PROBABLY CAN'T EVEN GIVE HIM A PAPER CUT.

BUT IF PUTTING OURSELVES ON THE FIRING LINE BUYS THE HUMAN RACE ENOUGH TIME FOR LYRA TO FIGURE SOMETHING OUT, THEN THAT'S WHERE WE SHOULD BE.



DEATH WANTS TO WIPE OUT THE HUMAN RACE AND START OVER. THAT MAKES THE CONSEQUENCES OF WALKING AWAY UNACCEPTABLE.

WE'RE GOOD TO GO WHEN YOU ARE, STEVE.



THE **GUARDIAN** SAID THAT MALIK CAN SEE THE FUTURE, AT LEAST A LITTLE. I THINK THE FACT THAT HE'S COMING WITH US MEANS WE HAVE AT LEAST A **CHANCE**.

THAT'S BECAUSE YOU DON'T **KNOW** HIM.



"YOU DON'T KNOW **EITHER** OF THEM."

AND HE THINKS--

IT HAS BEEN SO LONG SINCE I HAVE KNOWN THIS FORM.



SO LONG SINCE
I HAVE WALKED
THESE PATHS--



--AND BEHELD
WITH WEARY
EYES THE FUTILITY
OF IT ALL.



I GIVE YOU A
GREAT GIFT.

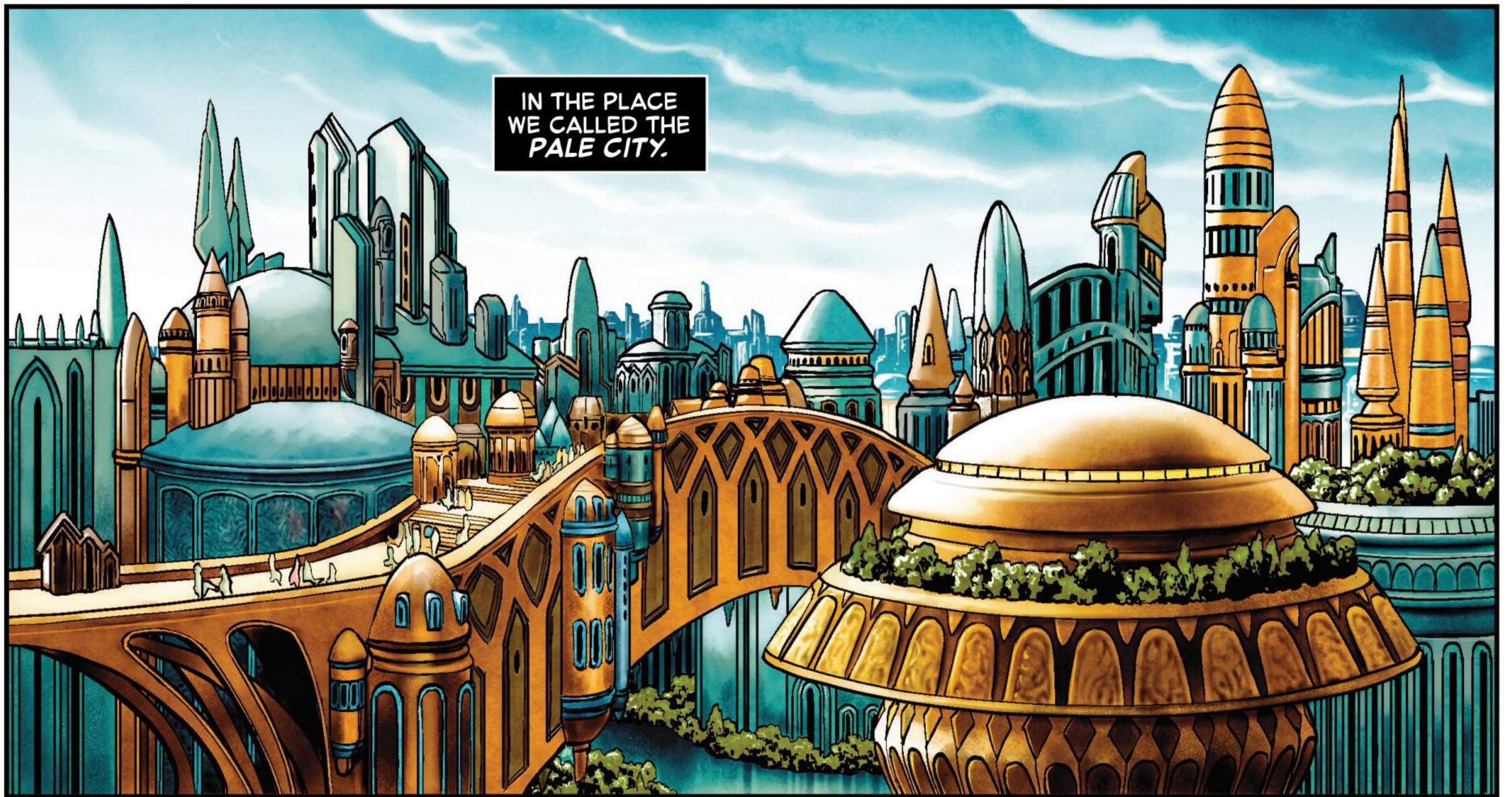


--HUCcCH...
HUCcCH--

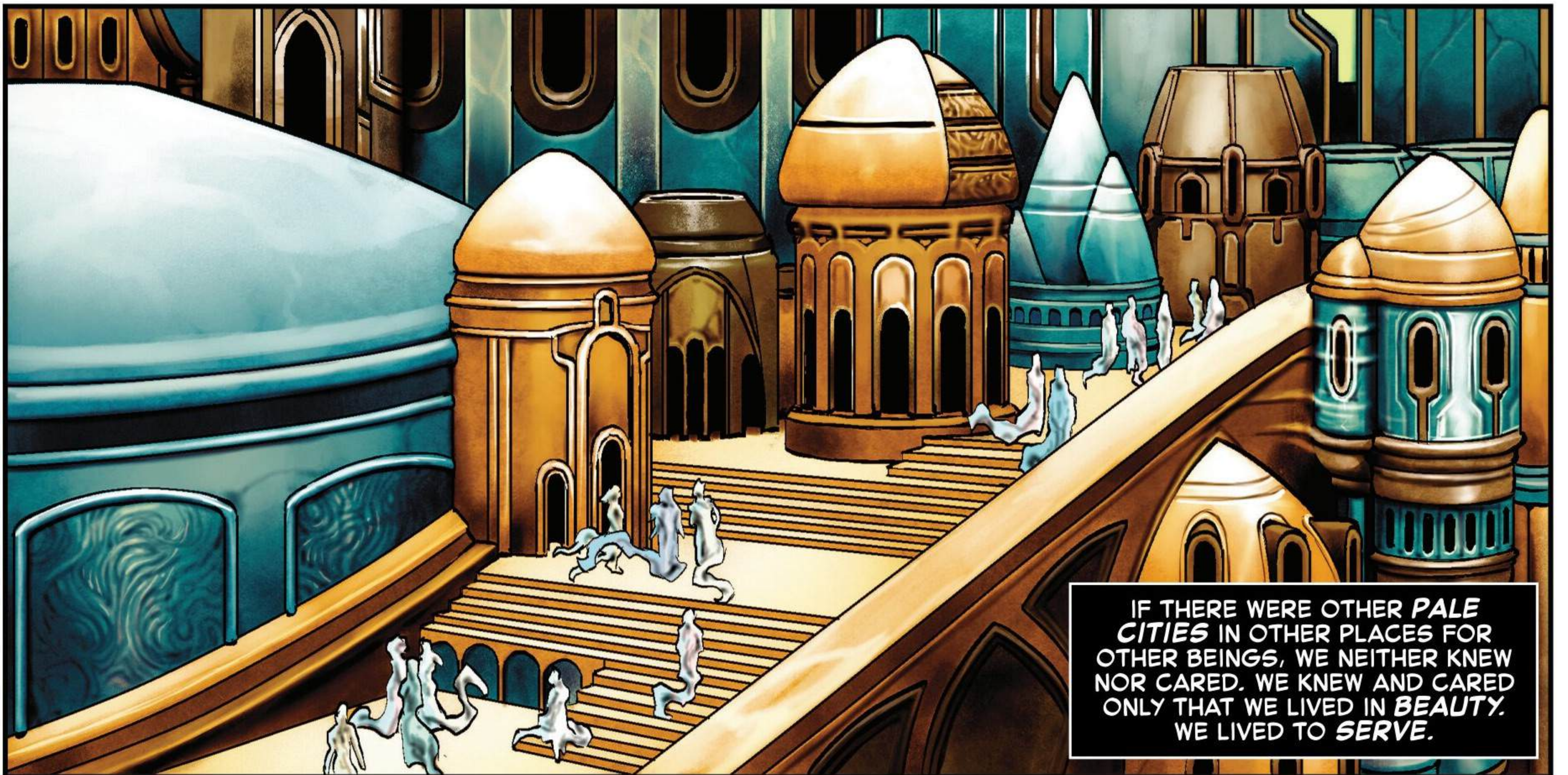
FREEDOM
FROM THE
PAIN AND
STRUGGLE.



WE HAD SUCH
HOPES IN THE
BEGINNING.



IN THE PLACE
WE CALLED THE
PALE CITY.



IF THERE WERE OTHER *PALE CITIES* IN OTHER PLACES FOR OTHER BEINGS, WE NEITHER KNEW NOR CARED. WE KNEW AND CARED ONLY THAT WE LIVED IN *BEAUTY*. WE LIVED TO *SERVE*.



AND SHE WAS THERE...
LYRA, THE GREATEST
OF US ALL. MY OPPOSITE
AND MY MIRROR SELF...
MY COMPANION...
THE SISTER TO MY
PURPOSE AND MY HEART.

WHERE SOME SERVED
PURPOSES VAST AND
COSMIC, SENDING COMETS
AND PLANETS SPIRALING
THROUGH THE CHANCEL
OF STARS...

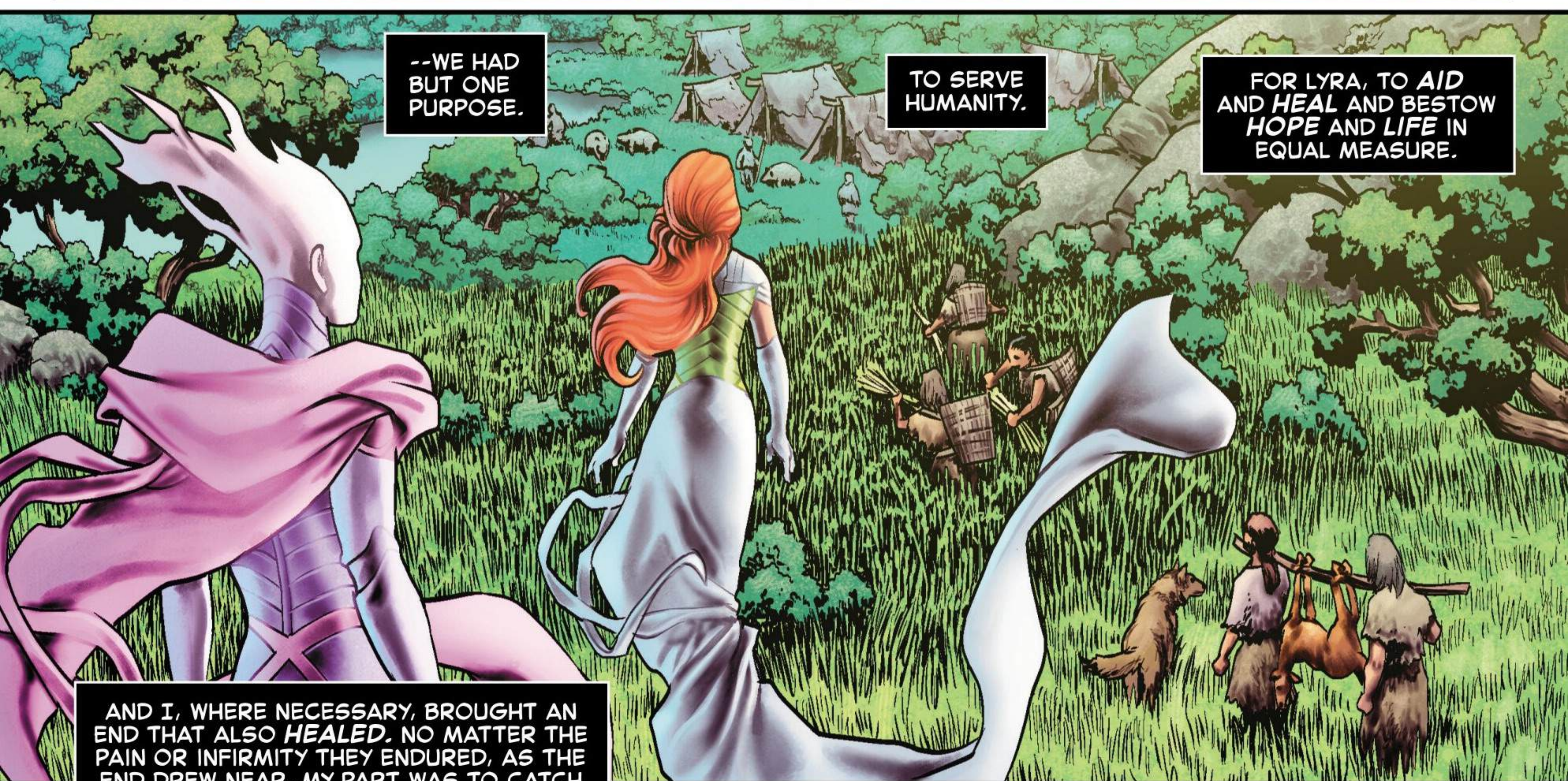


...OR PURPOSES
INFINITESIMAL AND
PROFOUND, CIRCUMSCRIBING
THE ORBIT OF ATOMS AND
THE DELICATE TRACERY OF
BUTTERFLY WINGS--

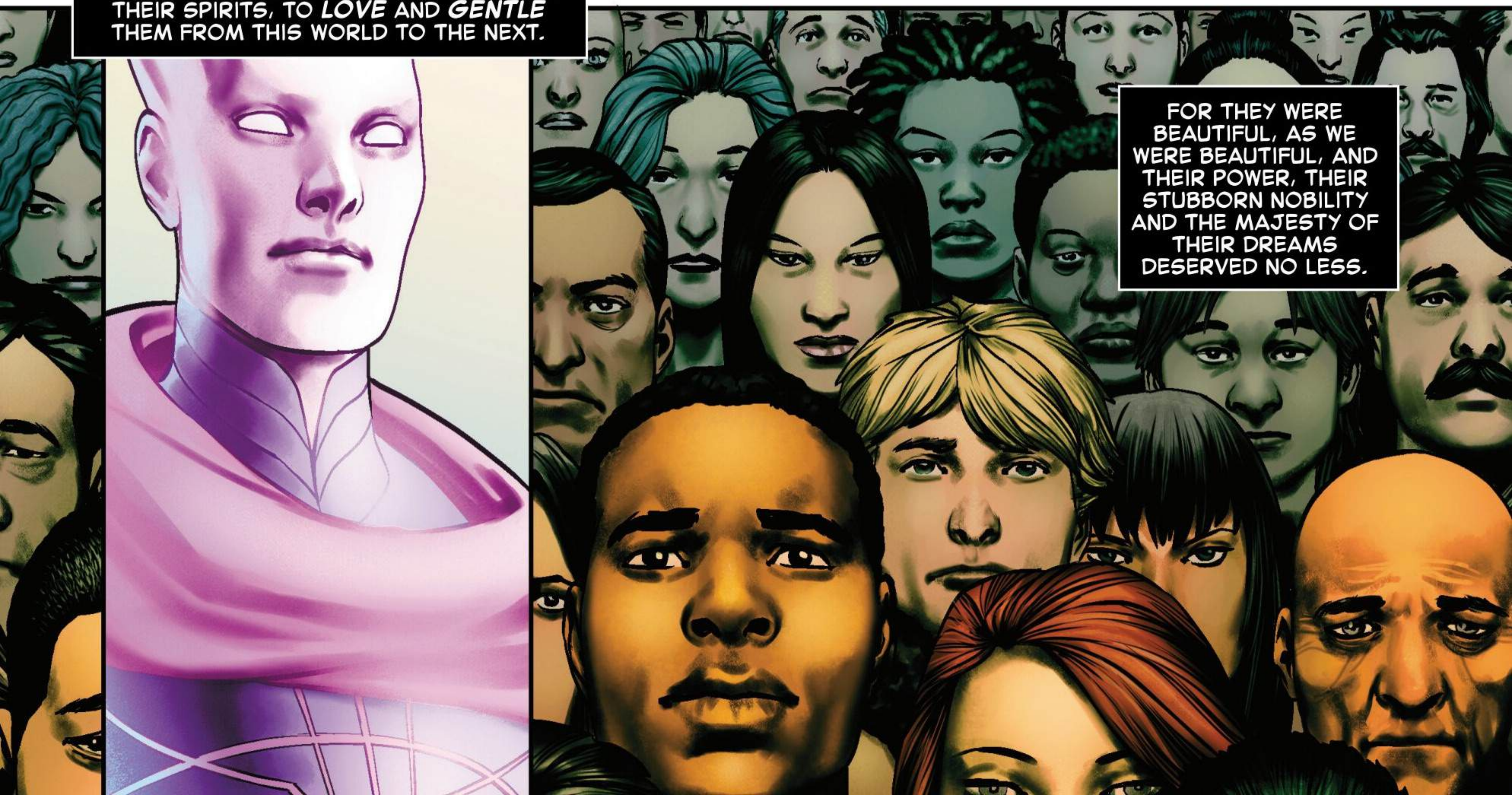
--WE HAD
BUT ONE
PURPOSE.

TO SERVE
HUMANITY.

FOR LYRA, TO AID
AND HEAL AND BESTOW
HOPE AND LIFE IN
EQUAL MEASURE.



AND I, WHERE NECESSARY, BROUGHT AN
END THAT ALSO HEALED. NO MATTER THE
PAIN OR INFIRMITY THEY ENDURED, AS THE
END DREW NEAR, MY PART WAS TO CATCH
THEIR SPIRITS, TO LOVE AND GENTLE
THEM FROM THIS WORLD TO THE NEXT.



FOR THEY WERE
BEAUTIFUL, AS WE
WERE BEAUTIFUL, AND
THEIR POWER, THEIR
STUBBORN NOBILITY
AND THE MAJESTY OF
THEIR DREAMS
DESERVED NO LESS.



EVEN IN WARS UNJUST AND CRUEL, THERE WERE MOMENTS OF SACRIFICE, HONOR AND GREAT COURAGE. THOSE I SHEPHERDED ONE AT A TIME, SOFTLY THROUGH THE VEIL.

AND THOSE FOR WHOM THERE WAS NEITHER HONOR NOR FAIRNESS, WHO REVELED IN SLAUGHTER AND MISERY...THOSE I DELIVERED TO THE HALL OF SHADOWS, WHERE THEIR TORMENTED SCREAMS WOULD ECHO THROUGHOUT ETERNITY.

I SERVED HUMANITY. I BELIEVED IN HUMANITY. I...LOVED... HUMANITY.

AND
THEN...



**1 July 1916.
Battle of the Somme.**

**57,000 casualties in
a single day. 1,219,201
casualties in four months.**

...NO...

AND
THEN...

**Stalinist Russia, 1930s.
6,000,000 killed.**



...PLEASE...

AND
THEN...

**Europe.
World War II.
11,000,000 killed in
the Holocaust.**

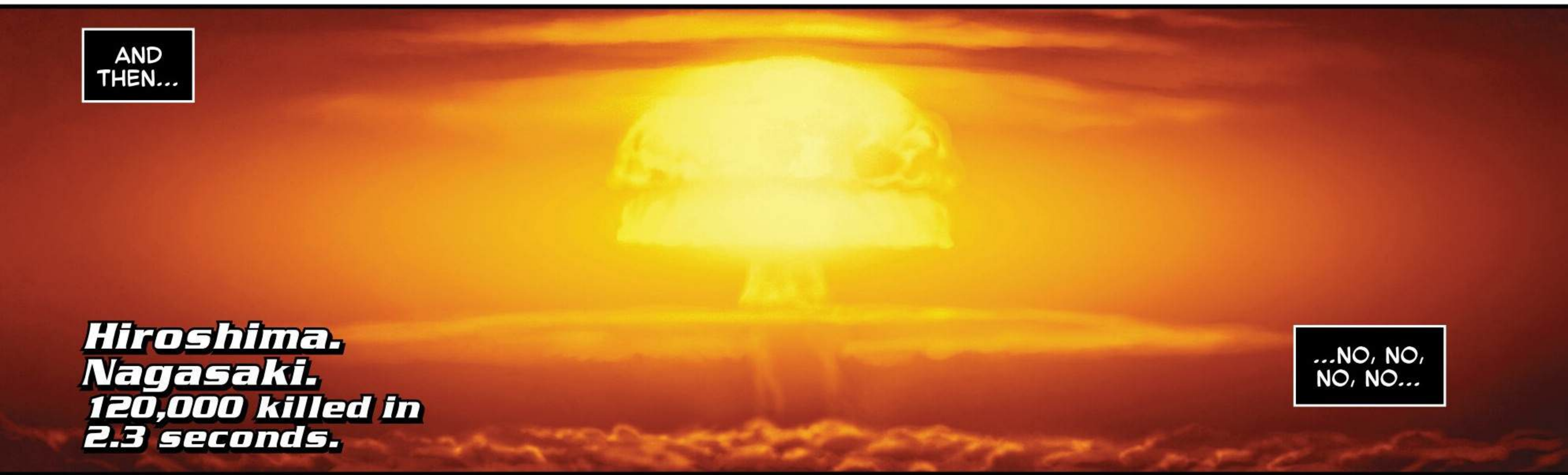


**15,000,000 soldiers
killed in action.**

...NO
MORE...

AND
THEN...

**Hiroshima.
Nagasaki.
120,000 killed in
2.3 seconds.**



...NO, NO,
NO, NO...

AND
THEN...

**Maoist Cultural
Revolution.
30,000,000 deaths.**



...I CAN'T BEAR IT...
IT'S TOO MUCH... STOP IT,
STOP IT...STOP IT...

...STOP IT.

WE HAD FOUGHT AND TAUGHT
AND STRIVED TOGETHER FOR
THOUSANDS OF YEARS, BELIEVING
THAT THE HUMAN RACE WAS
WORTHY OF THOSE EFFORTS...
THAT IT WOULD BE A BRIGHT LIGHT
BRINGING HOPE TO THE UNIVERSE.

WE WERE
WRONG.

IF THIS
MONSTROUSNESS
IS THE TRUE FACE
AND FUTURE OF THE
HUMAN RACE--

--THEN THE HUMAN
RACE DESERVES
NO FUTURE.



"I WON'T
LIE TO YOU.
THE ODDS ARE
AGAINST US."



BUT LYRA
SENT ALONG A GIFT
FOR EACH OF US TO GO
WITH THE EAR MICS I GAVE
YOU ON TAKEOFF...RINGS
IMBUED WITH HER POWER
THAT SHOULD GIVE US SOME
MEASURE OF PROTECTION
WHEN WE'RE NEAR
DEATH.

AS LONG
AS HE DOESN'T
ACTUALLY *TOUCH*
YOU, YOU SHOULD
BE FINE.

SHOULD
BE?

DIDN'T
COME WITH A
WARRANTY,
GUARDIAN.



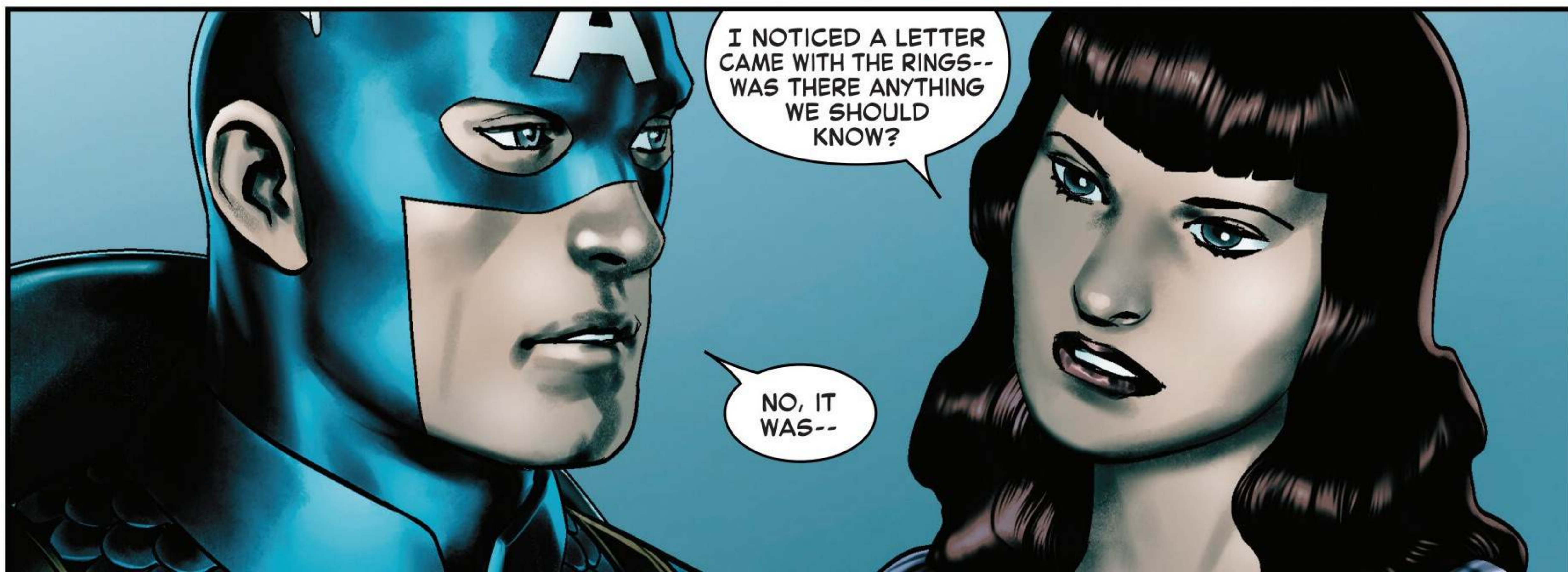
ISN'T THIS HOW *FRODO*
ENDED UP WALKING INTO A
WORLD OF TROUBLE? BECAUSE
THAT STORY DIDN'T END
WELL AT ALL.

UMMM...
STAR WARS,
RIGHT?

DON'T
EVEN
TRY.



NNNNGGGGG...



I NOTICED A LETTER
CAME WITH THE RINGS--
WAS THERE ANYTHING
WE SHOULD
KNOW?

NO, IT
WAS--

"--A
PERSONAL
NOTE."



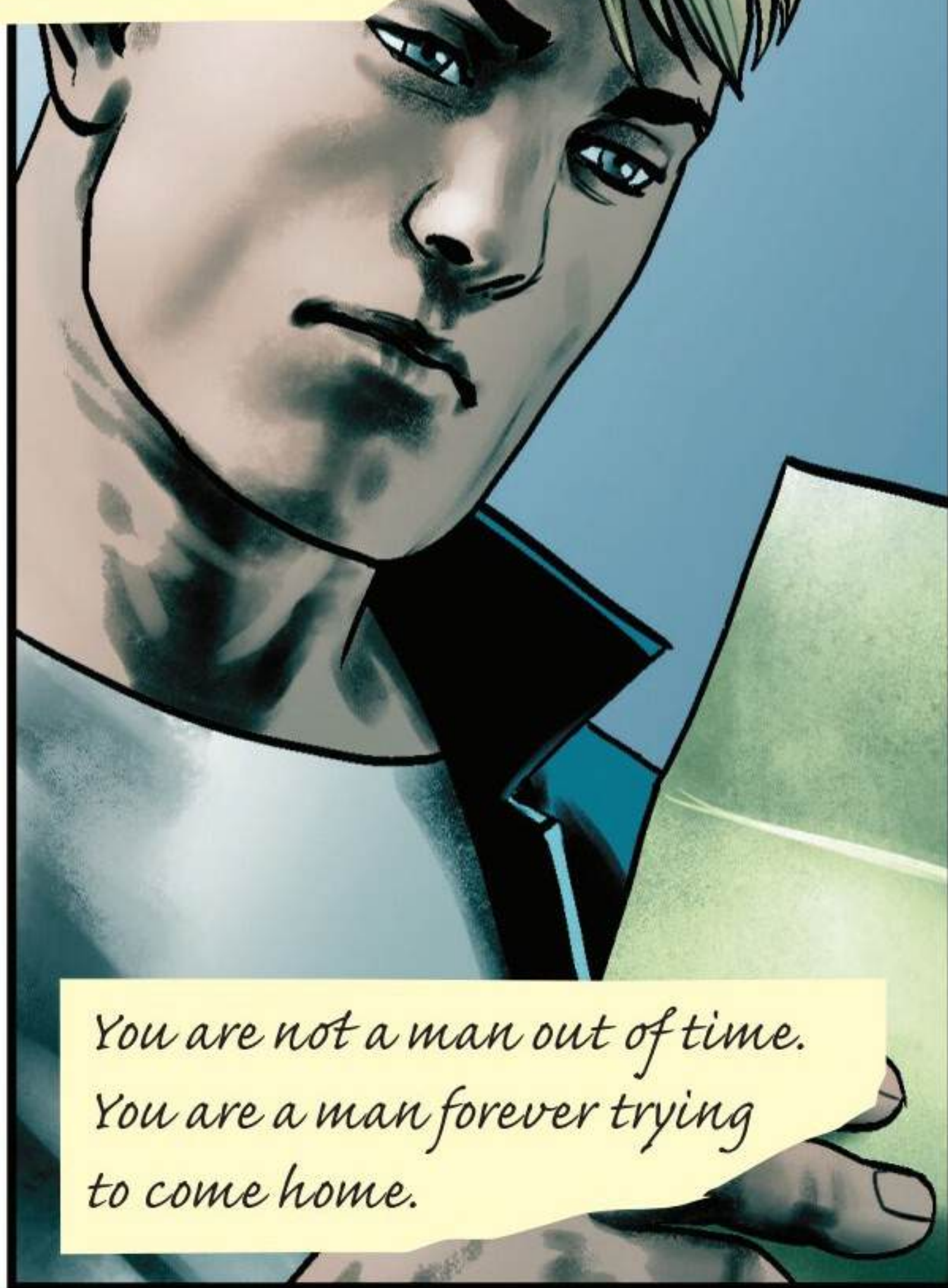
*Which brings
me to something
I have decided
you must know, a
choice only you
can make.*

*I have heard you called "a man out of time." But we both
know this is not correct. We all pass out of the time we first
came into. That is what HOME is for...a place we can
return to when the times grow unfamiliar.*



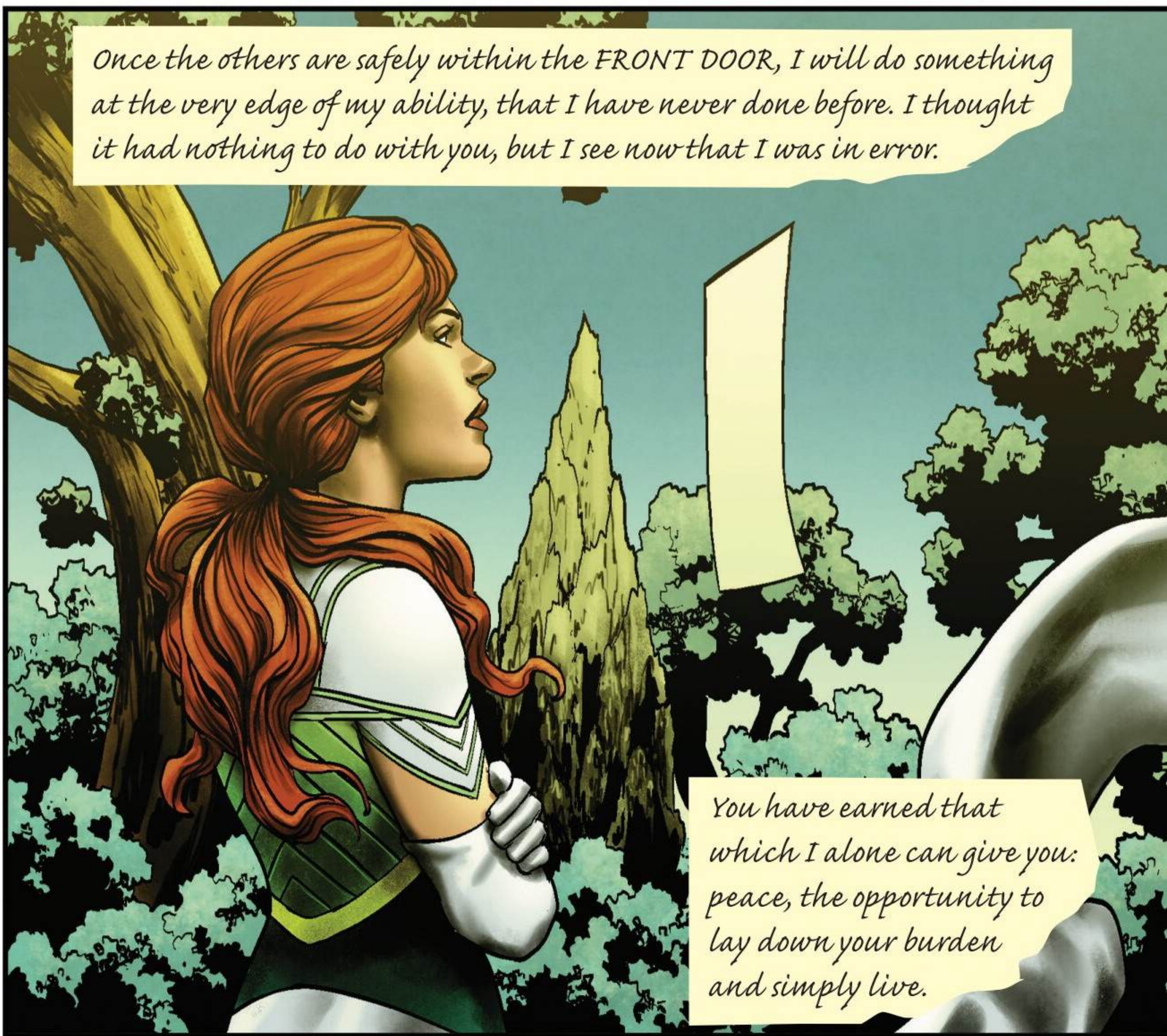
*And that is what you
have never truly
known.*

*Having lost your friends and family,
untimely ripped from the era in
which you were born, you have been
seeking a place you can call your
own, where you can rest
and live your life full
measure.*

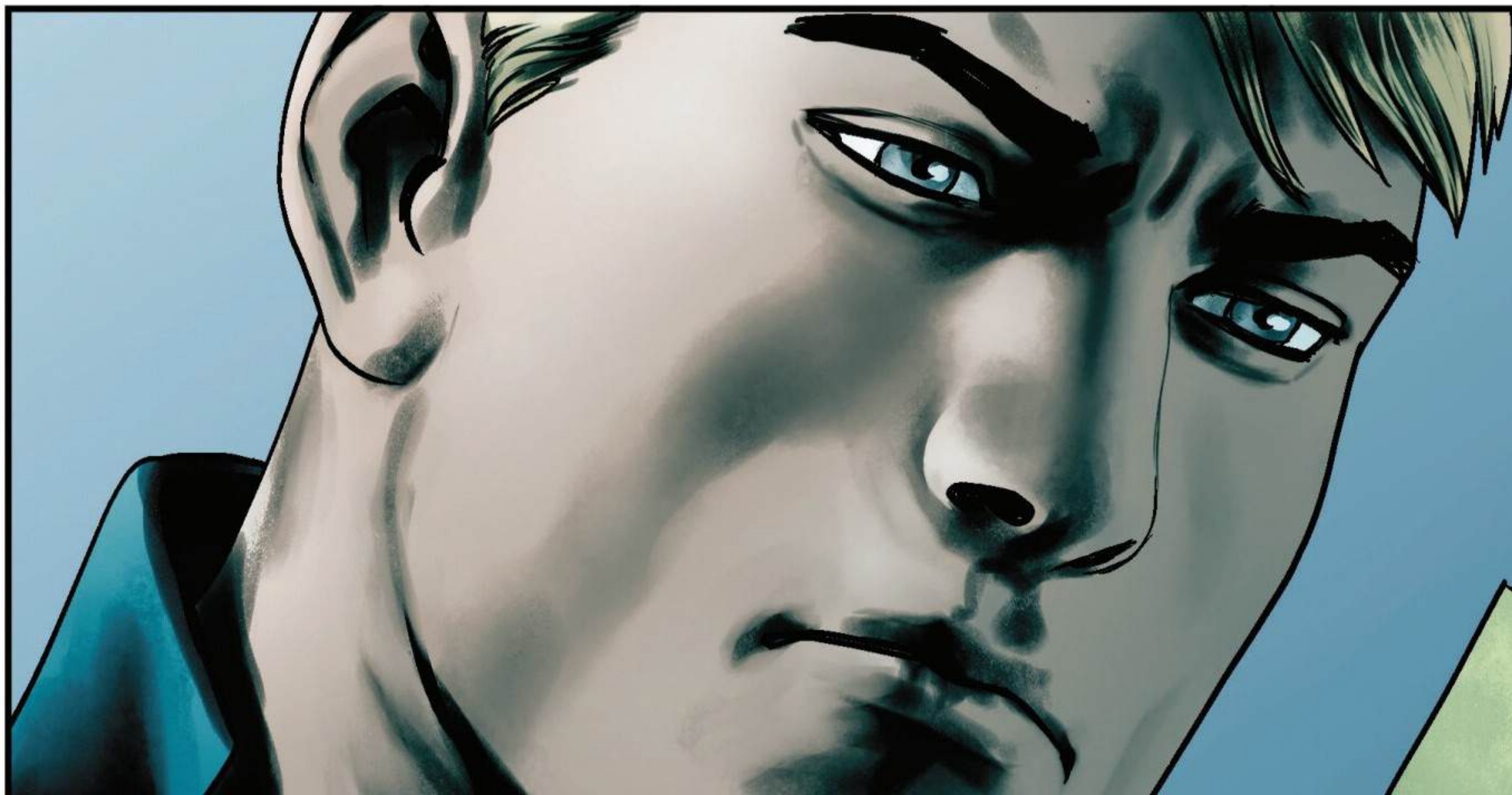


*You are not a man out of time.
You are a man forever trying
to come home.*

*Once the others are safely within the FRONT DOOR, I will do something
at the very edge of my ability, that I have never done before. I thought
it had nothing to do with you, but I see now that I was in error.*

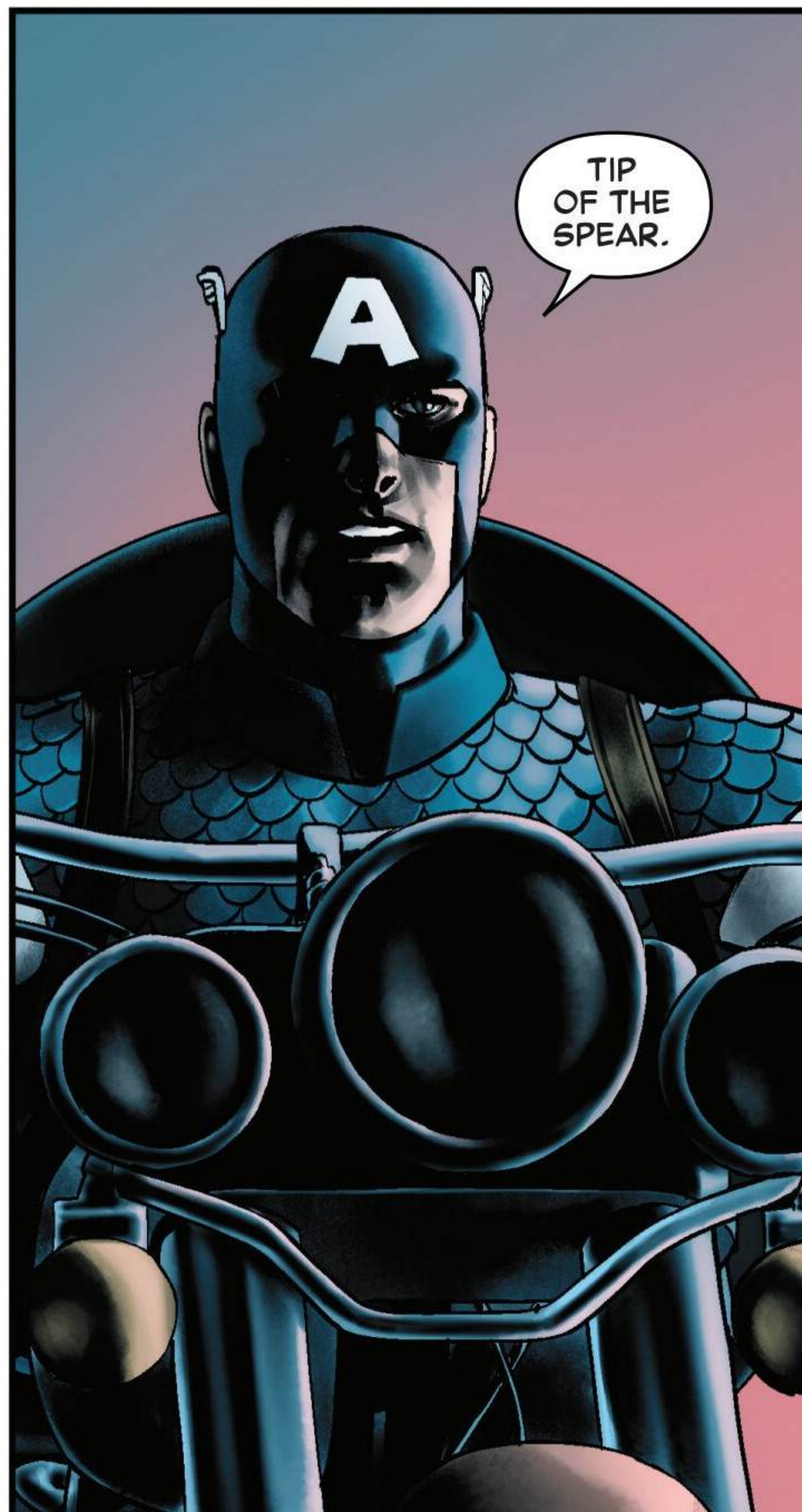
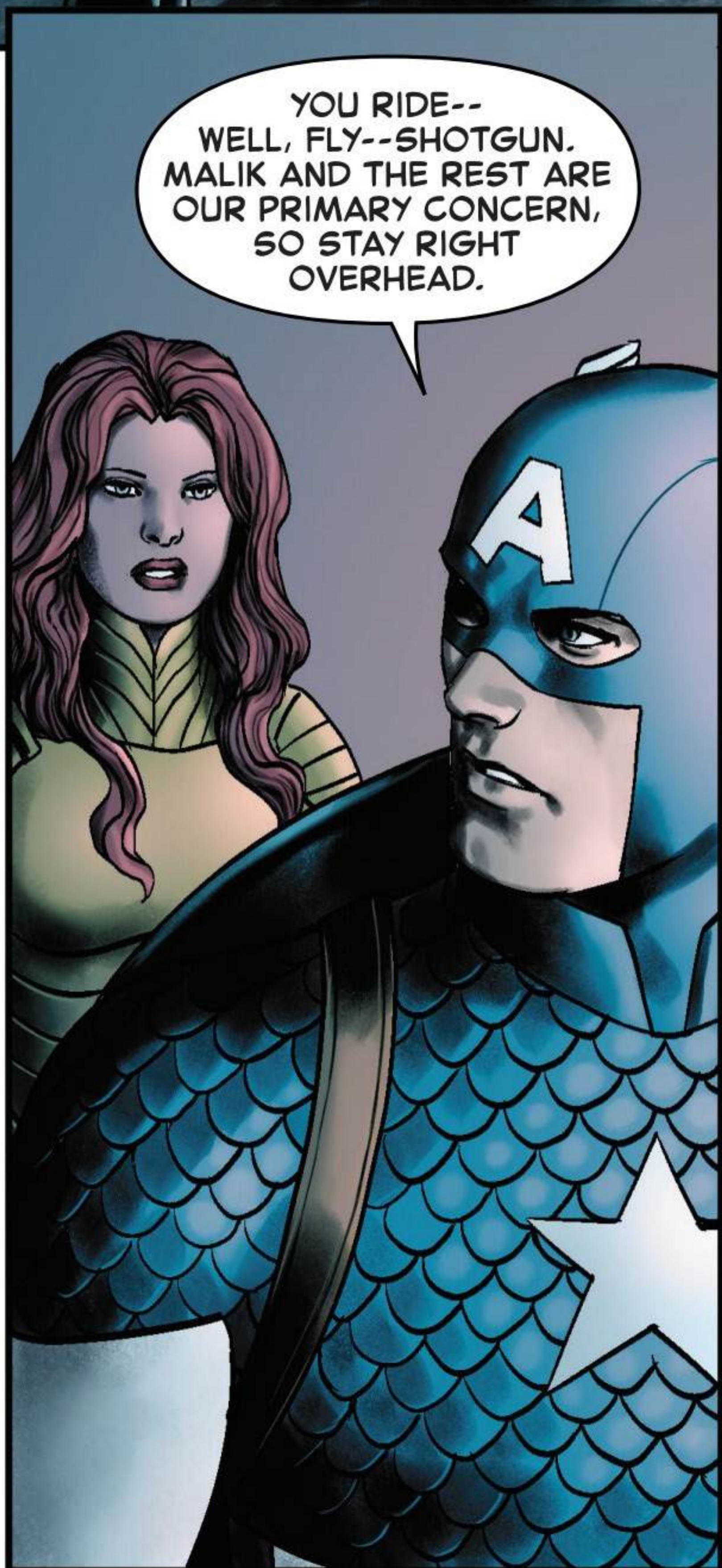
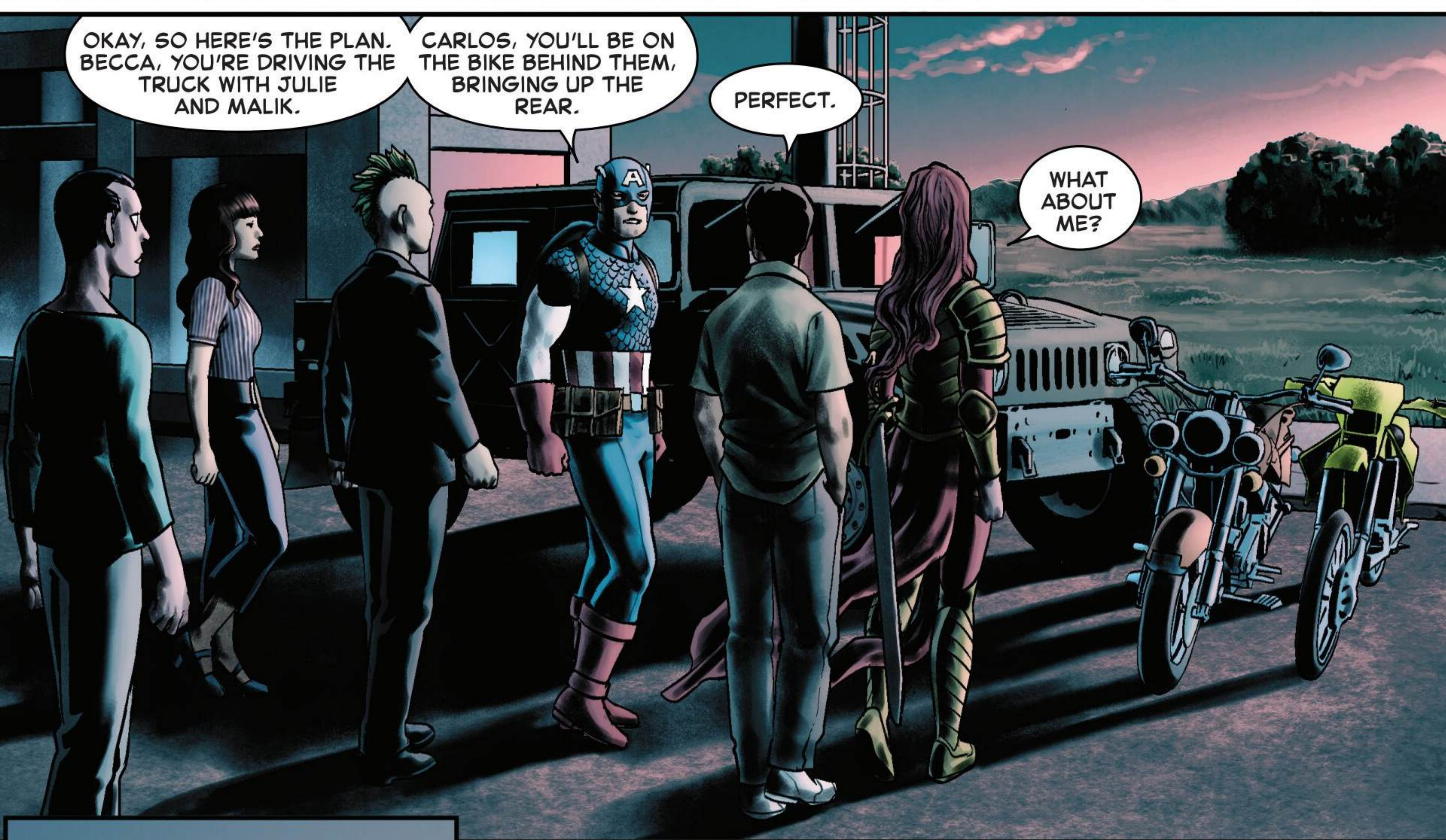


*You have earned that
which I alone can give you:
peace, the opportunity to
lay down your burden
and simply live.*



*This is your chance,
at long last, to come home.
But you must be here when
the others arrive, before
I do that which I must
do...or the moment will
be lost forever.*

**"OKAY, FOLKS, WE'RE
ABOUT TO TOUCH
DOWN, SO STRAP IN
THOSE SEAT BELTS."**





"THEY'RE ON
THEIR WAY--I
CAN FEEL THEM."

**The Front
Door Cabaret.**



IS THIS
REALLY IT,
LYRA?

YES,
DEX.

SHOULD I
TRY TO GET
HOLD OF ANYONE
WHO'S NOT
ALREADY HERE?



"NO NEED. AS
SOON AS I FELT
THEM LAND, NOTES
APPEARED WHERE
NOTES NEEDED
TO APPEAR."

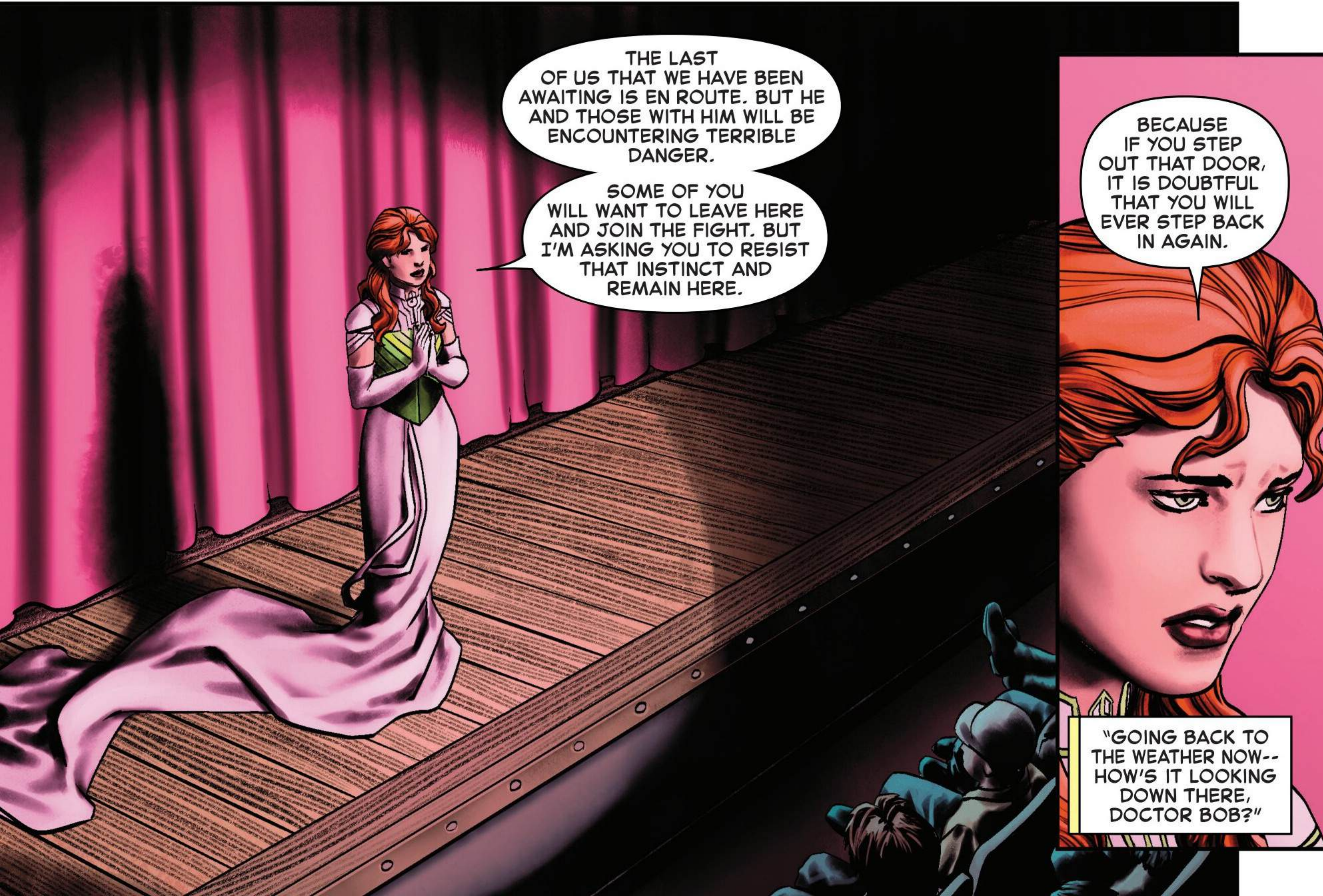


ONCE EVERYONE WHO CAN MAKE IT HERE
HAS DONE SO, MAKE SURE NONE OF THEM
LEAVE. IF THEY'RE OUTSIDE WHEN IT
HAPPENS--

I KNOW.
DON'T WORRY,
I'LL DO WHAT'S
NECESSARY.

GOOD.
NOW TO TELL
THE REST.

"MAY I HAVE
YOUR ATTENTION,
PLEASE?"

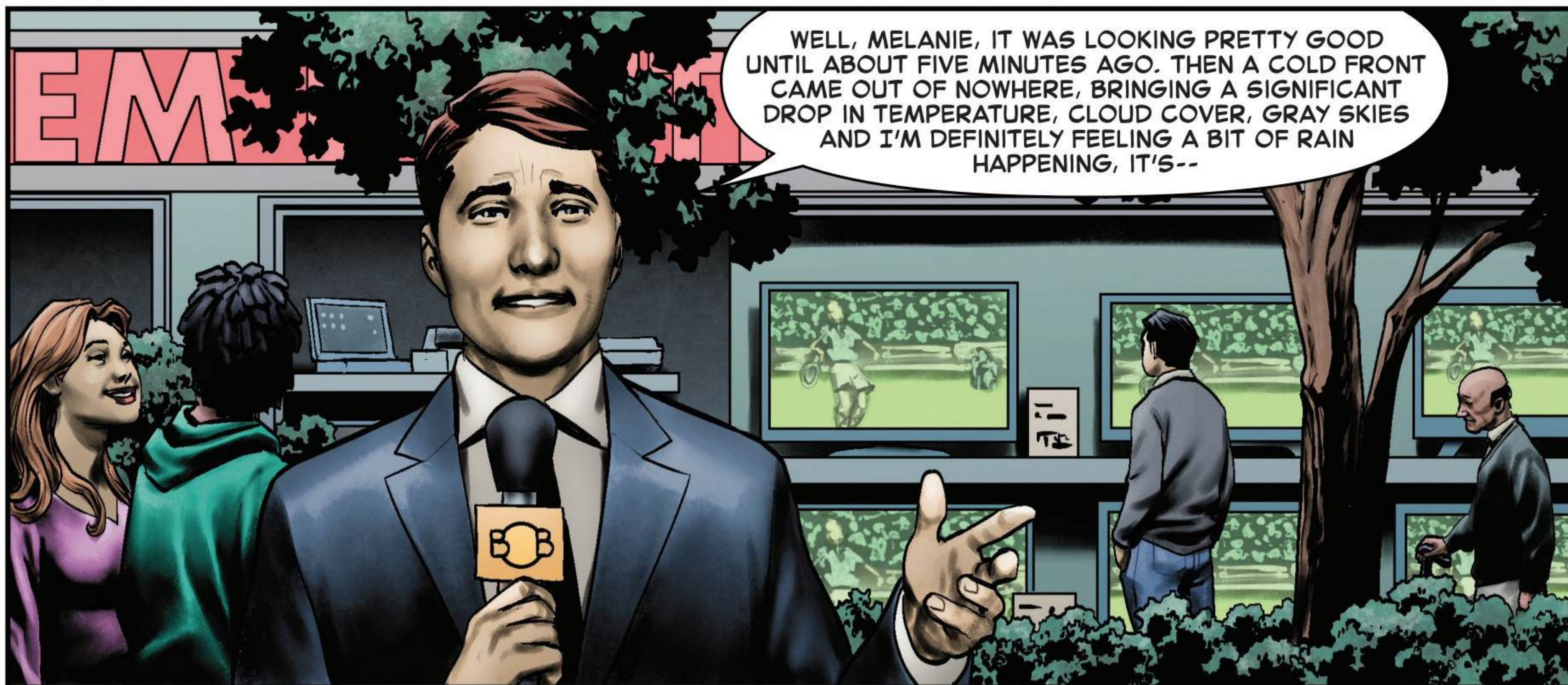


THE LAST
OF US THAT WE HAVE BEEN
AWAITING IS EN ROUTE. BUT HE
AND THOSE WITH HIM WILL BE
ENCOUNTERING TERRIBLE
DANGER.

SOME OF YOU
WILL WANT TO LEAVE HERE
AND JOIN THE FIGHT. BUT
I'M ASKING YOU TO RESIST
THAT INSTINCT AND
REMAIN HERE.

BECAUSE
IF YOU STEP
OUT THAT DOOR,
IT IS DOUBTFUL
THAT YOU WILL
EVER STEP BACK
IN AGAIN.

"GOING BACK TO
THE WEATHER NOW--
HOW'S IT LOOKING
DOWN THERE,
DOCTOR BOB?"



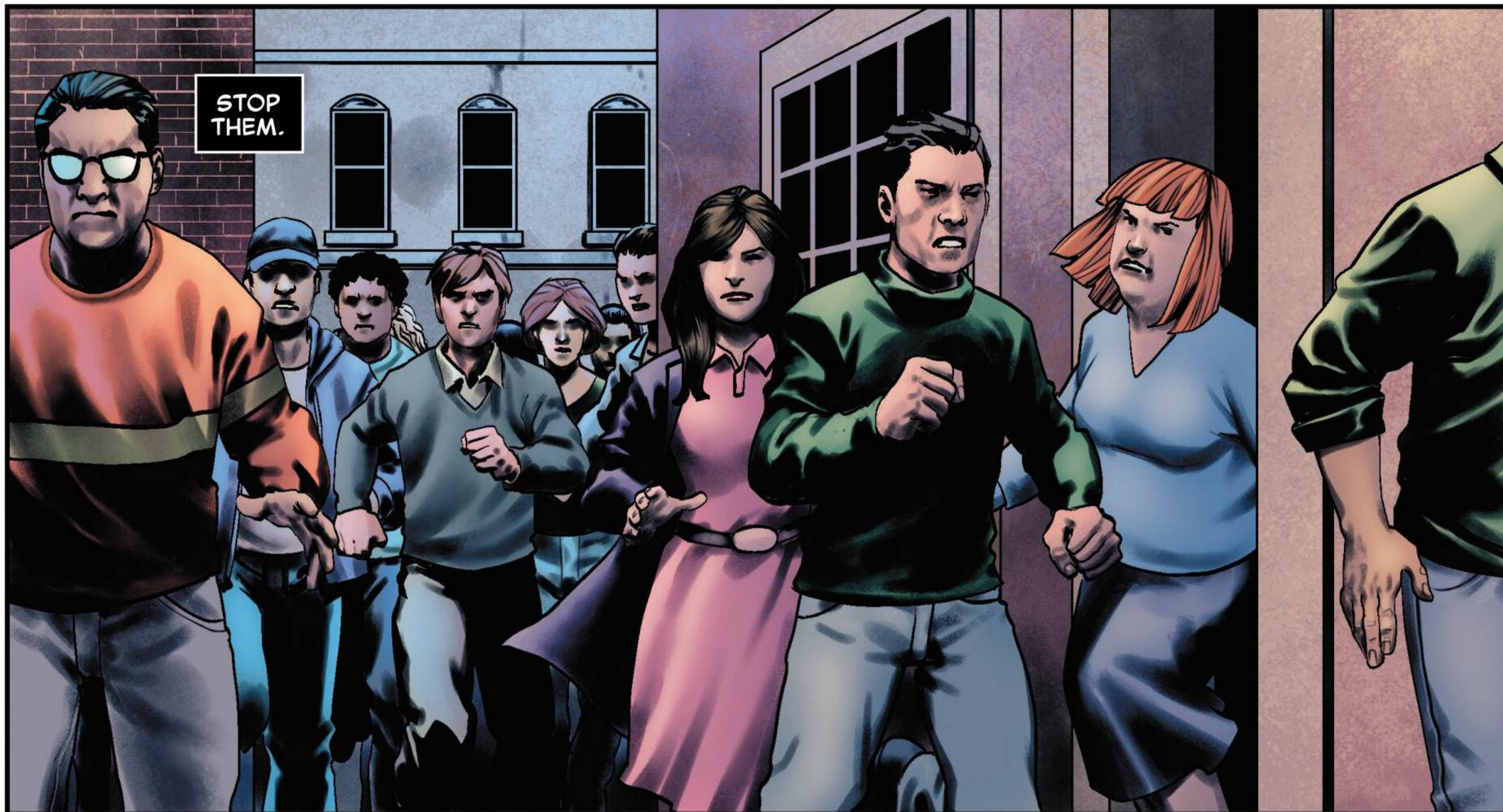
I PLEDGED, EONS AGO,
THAT I WOULD NOT DIRECTLY
TAKE THE LIVES OF HUMANS
BEFORE THEIR TIME. BUT I
AM BREAKING THAT OATH, ON
MY OWN AND THROUGH YOU.

BECAUSE NO ONE
IS AS SKILLED AT
KILLING HUMANS AS
OTHER HUMANS.

I SHARE WITH YOU NOW
MY POWER, THE POWER
OF *DEATH* ITSELF, AND
UNLOCK YOUR MOST
VIOLENT INSTINCTS.

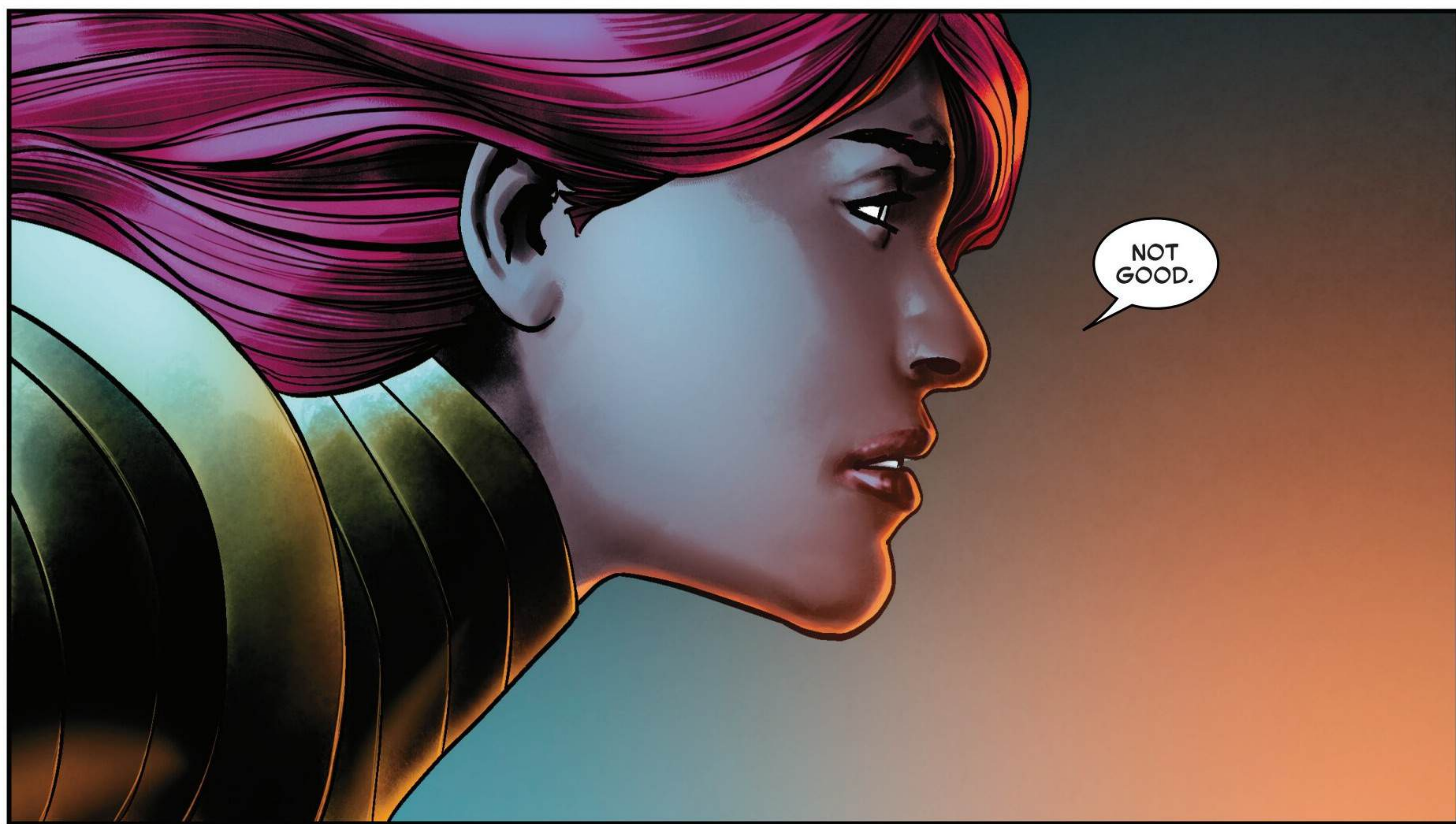
IF YOU TAKE UP
ARMS TO STOP THOSE
I WISH DESTROYED,
THAT POWER WILL BE
RELEASED AND YOU
WILL LIVE.

IF YOU FAIL TO
DO SO, THEN
THAT POWER WILL
DESTROY YOU.





GUARDIAN,
HOW'S THE
ROAD
AHEAD?



NOT
GOOD.





#12 VARIANT BY FELIPE MASSAFERA





SOUNDS LIKE **DEATH** PUT HIS ENERGY INTO EVERYBODY DOWN THERE WAITING FOR US.

I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT, CARLOS... HE'S FORCING A WALL OF PEOPLE TO TRY TO STOP US. WE HAVE TO GET THROUGH, BUT WE CAN'T HURT INNOCENT CIVILIANS CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS.

SO MAYBE WE TURN **BACK**, TRY ANOTHER DAY.

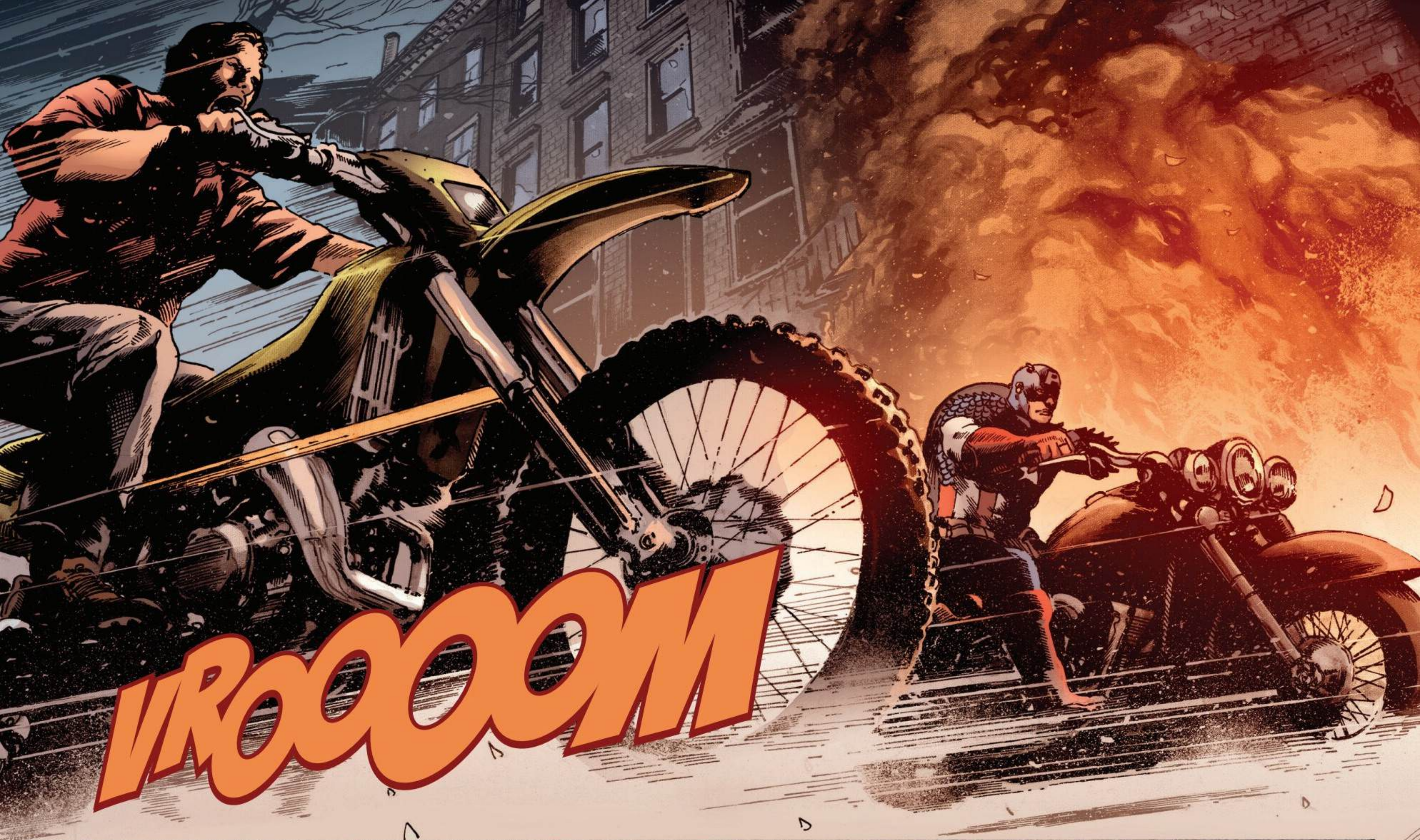
NO CAN DO, BECCA. LYRA SAID YOU'RE ALL **CHANGE AGENTS** NEEDED TO SAVE THE WORLD WHEN THE **NEXUS** COMES--

--ESPECIALLY **MALIK**, AND SHE SAID THAT WHATEVER'S GOING TO HAPPEN, IT'S HAPPENING TODAY, SO WE CAN'T LET THIS STOP US.

GUARDIAN, WE CAN DEAL WITH THE FIRES AND THE ROADBLOCKS, BUT IF YOU CAN CLEAR THE ROAD OF THE PEOPLE WITHOUT HURTING THEM--

YEAH, I CAN DO THAT.

LET'S GO.





MOLOTOV
COCKTAILS! SPIKES!
HANG BACK!



HOLD ON, I'VE
GOT THIS!





YOU OKAY, CARLOS?



A-OKAY, I--



--HERE THEY COME!

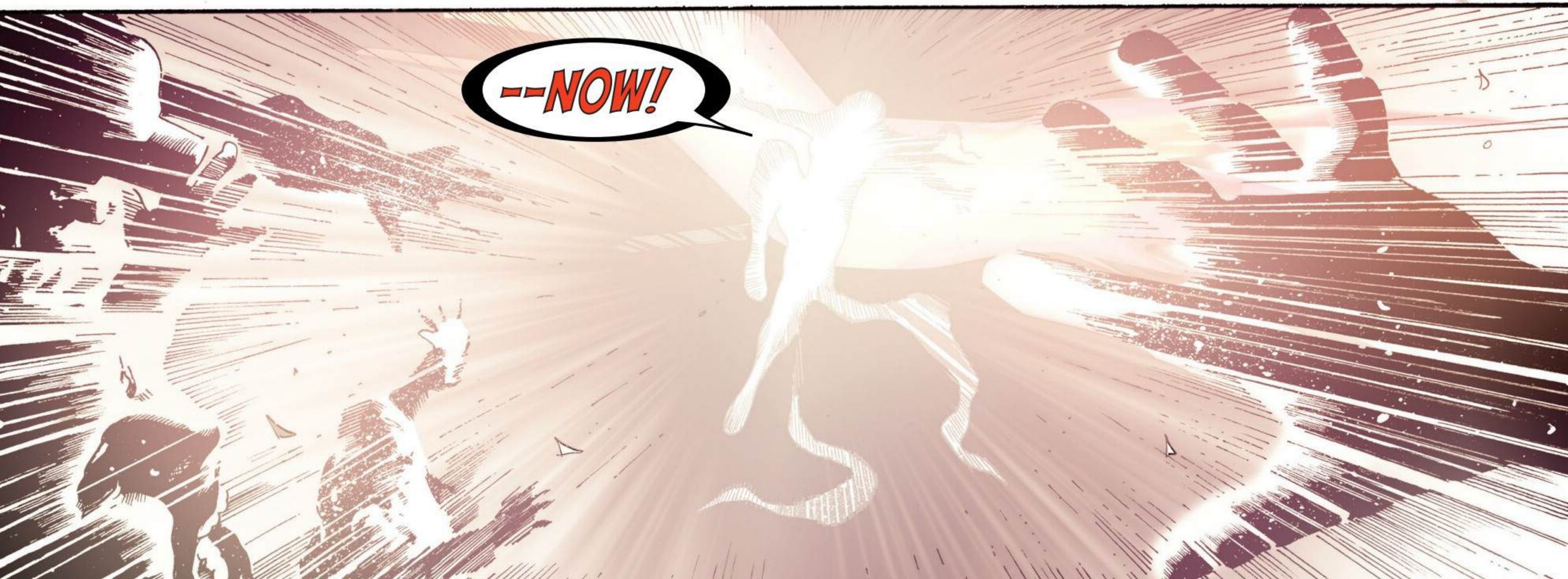
OH HELL--



OKAY, PEOPLE, COVER YOUR EYES!



EVERYBODY, BACK AWAY! RIGHT--



--NOW!



GOOD
WORK, THEY'RE
RETREATING!

BECCA...YOU
CAN SEE THROUGH
SECURITY CAMERAS...
ARE THERE ANY STREETS
CLEAR OF PEOPLE THAT
WE CAN TAKE?



I DON'T
KNOW,
I'LL--



AND SHE
THINKS--



THEY SAID ANYONE WHO LIES
NEAR MALIK DIES. IF THAT'S
TRUE, I CAN'T SAY I DIDN'T FIND
ANYTHING, ALL I CAN SAY IS--



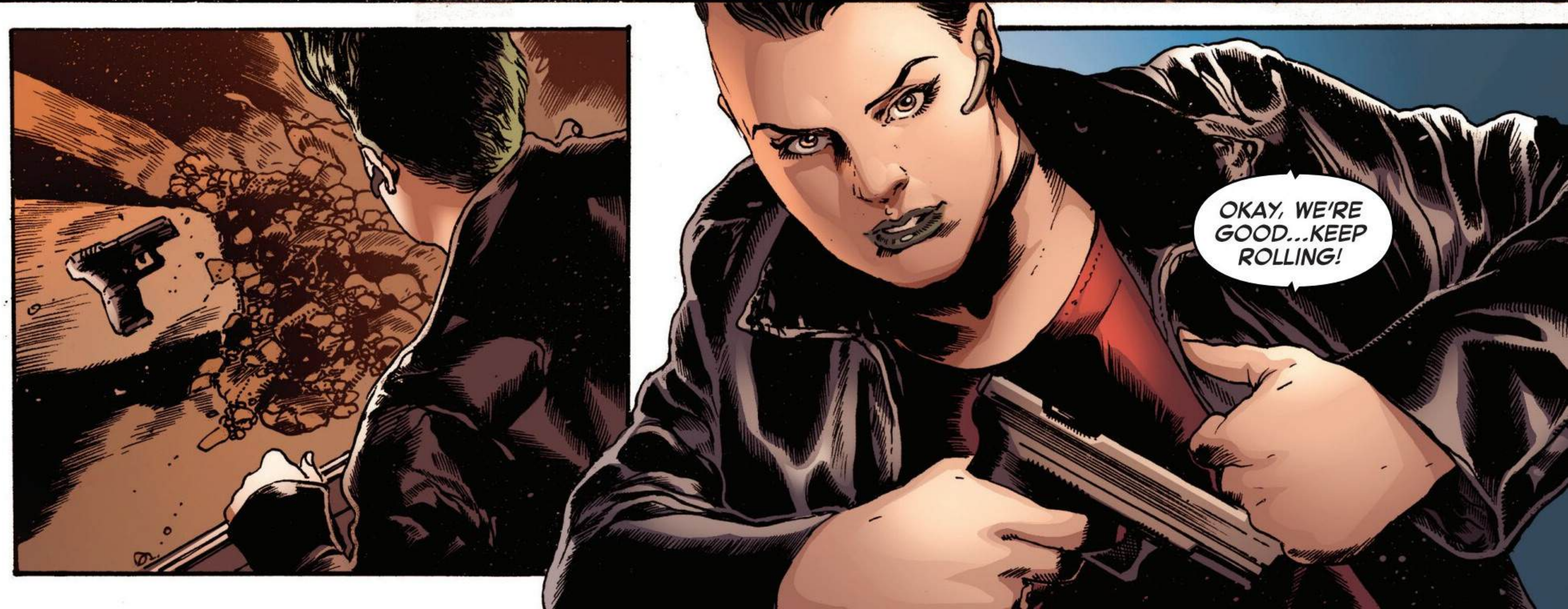
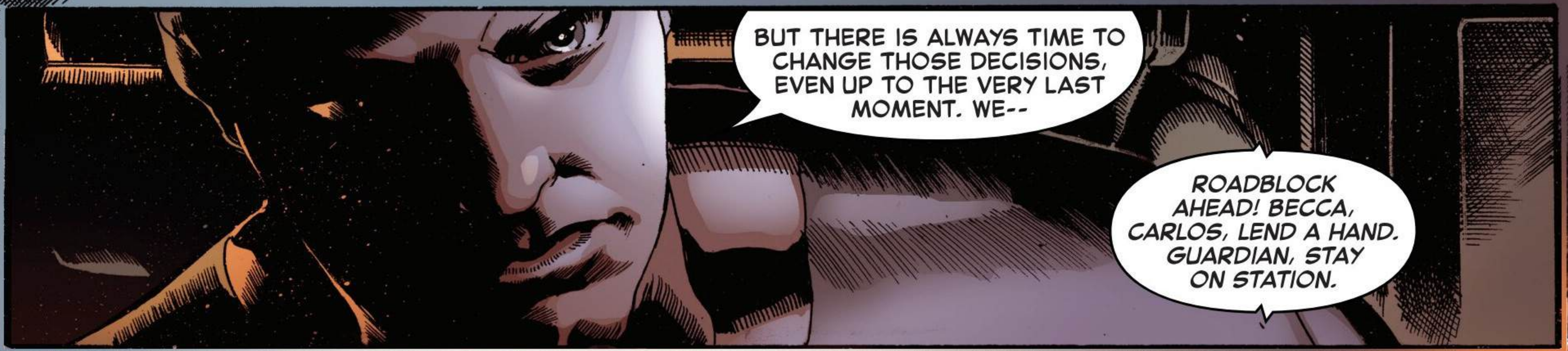
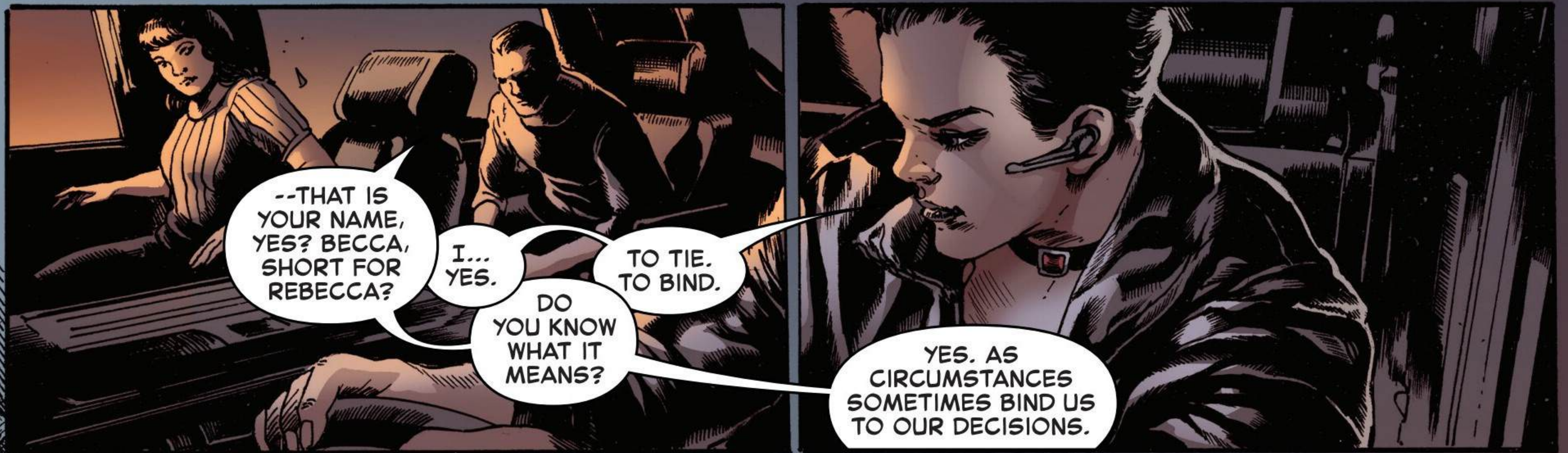
NOTHING
WE CAN USE,
NO.

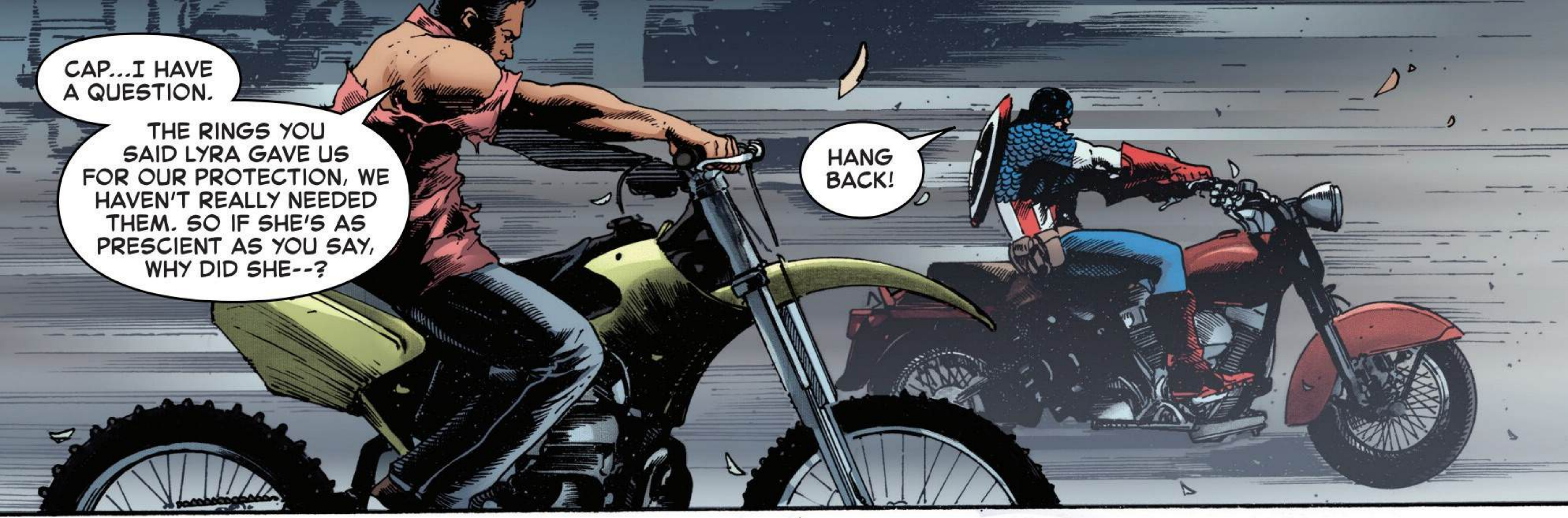
COPY
THAT.



I'M DOING
WHAT YOU ASKED.
JUST KEEP YOUR
END OF THE--

REBECCA--





CAP...I HAVE A QUESTION.

THE RINGS YOU SAID LYRA GAVE US FOR OUR PROTECTION, WE HAVEN'T REALLY NEEDED THEM. SO IF SHE'S AS PRESCIENT AS YOU SAY, WHY DID SHE--?

HANG BACK!



SKREEEEEEEE!

IT'S HIM... IT'S DEATH.



YOU KNOW WHAT MUST BE DONE, BECCA.



THE TIES THAT BIND YOU ARE AS THIN AS GOSSAMER--



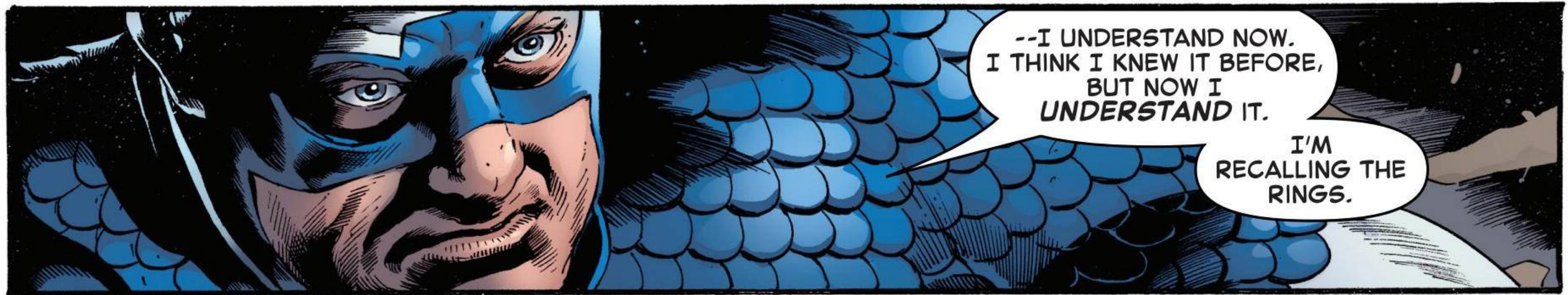
--AND CAN BE BROKEN JUST AS EASILY.

I TRUST YOU, BECCA.

DO AS YOU *WISH*, NOT AS YOU BELIEVE YOU *MUST*.



I THINK I MISUNDERSTOOD... SHE SAID THE RINGS WOULD HELP US COMPLETE THE MISSION. I ASSUMED THEY WERE TO **PROTECT** US, BUT--



--I UNDERSTAND NOW. I THINK I KNEW IT BEFORE, BUT NOW I **UNDERSTAND** IT.

I'M RECALLING THE RINGS.

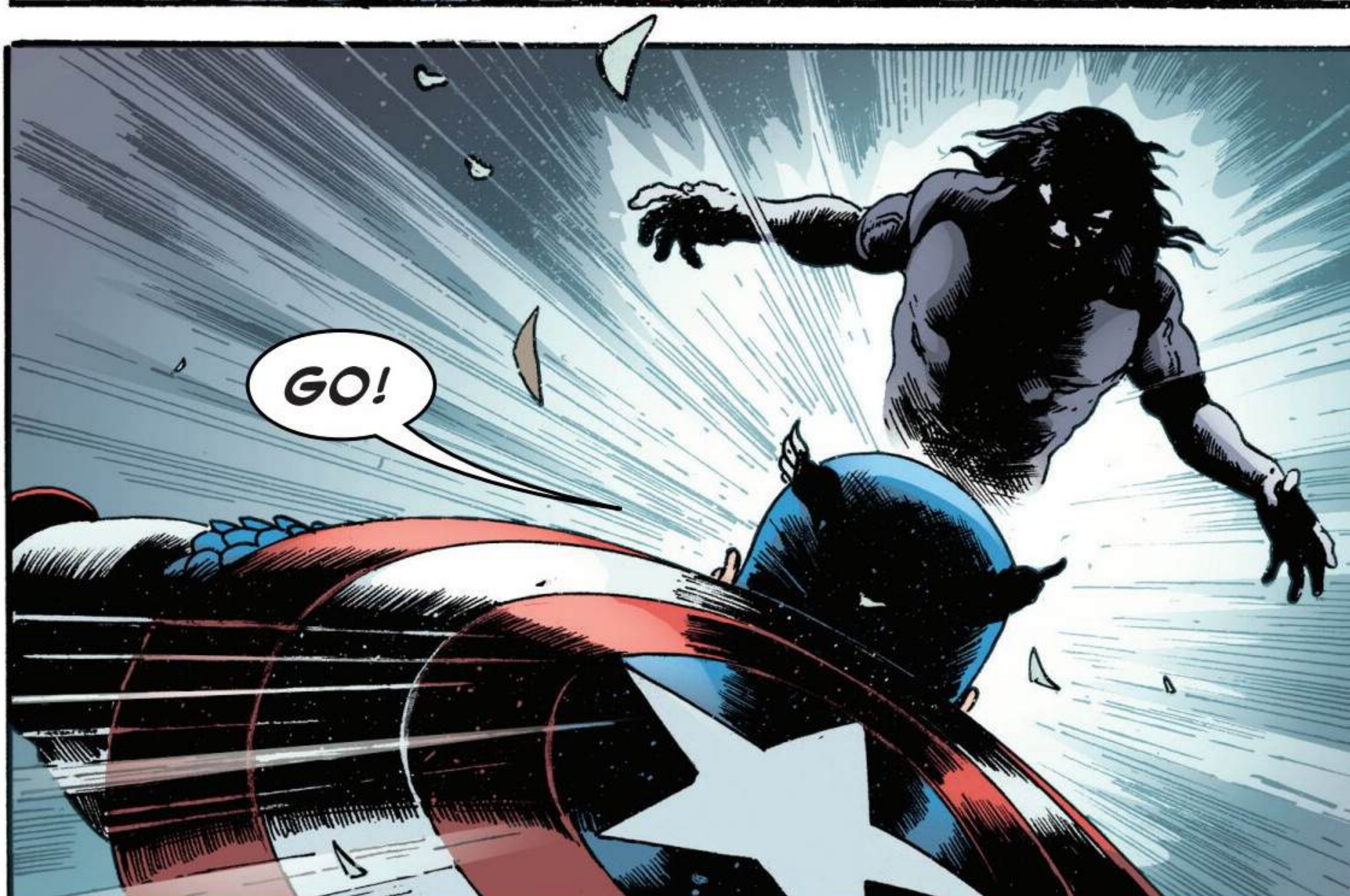


OKAY, GOOD... THANKS...

SIX RINGS. FIVE FINGERS. WHERE SHOULD THE SIXTH ONE GO?



SEEMS APPROPRIATE SOMEHOW.



I SUSPECT DEATH HAS NEVER BEEN IN A PHYSICAL FIGHT BEFORE. HE'S NEVER HAD TO. IT'S ALL BEEN ABOUT HIS *POWER*.

RIGHT NOW, THAT'S THE ONLY ADVANTAGE I'VE GOT.





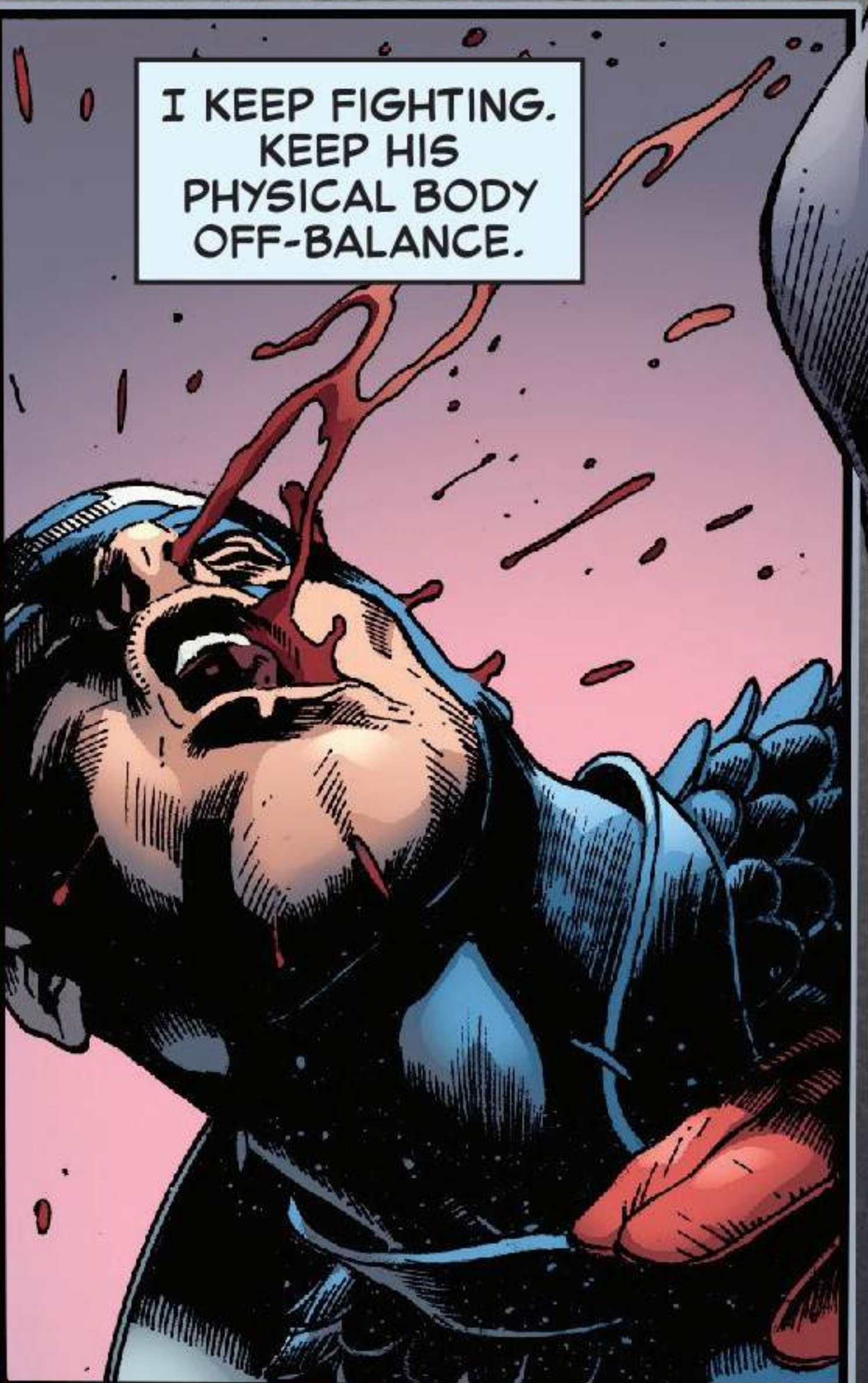
I HAVE TO KEEP
AT HIM. CAN'T
SLOW DOWN, CAN'T
HESITATE, CAN'T GIVE
HIM EVEN A *SECOND*
TO THINK.



I FEEL A
RIB BREAK.



THEN
ANOTHER.



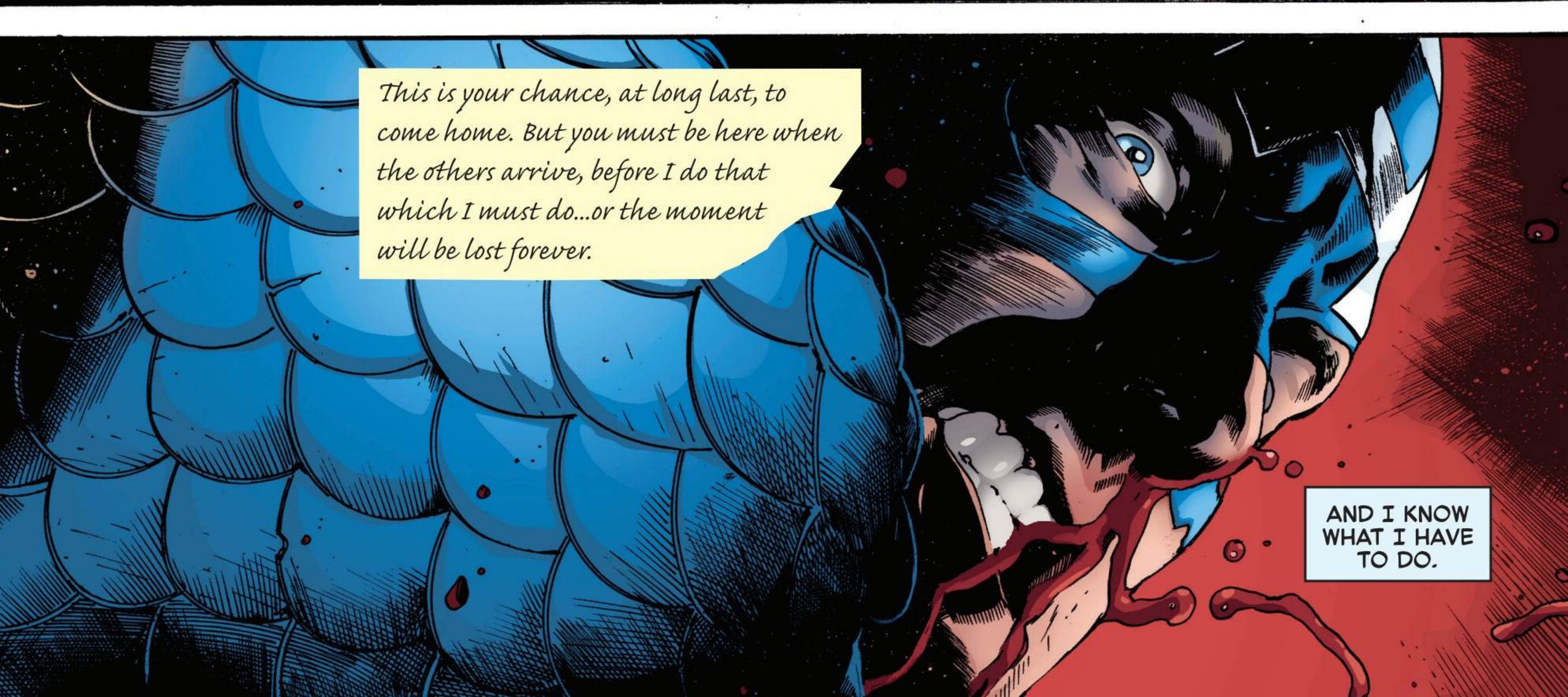
I KEEP FIGHTING.
KEEP HIS
PHYSICAL BODY
OFF-BALANCE.



HE GETS IN A
LUCKY SHOT,
AND SUDDENLY,
MY JAW IS ON
SIDWAYS.



I PUSH
DOWN THE PAIN.
HAVE TO KEEP
GOING UNTIL--



AND I KNOW
WHAT I HAVE
TO DO.



I NEED TO CONVINCE HIM THAT UNLESS HE TAKES BACK HIS POWER, HE WON'T MAKE IT OUT OF THIS FIGHT IN ONE PIECE.

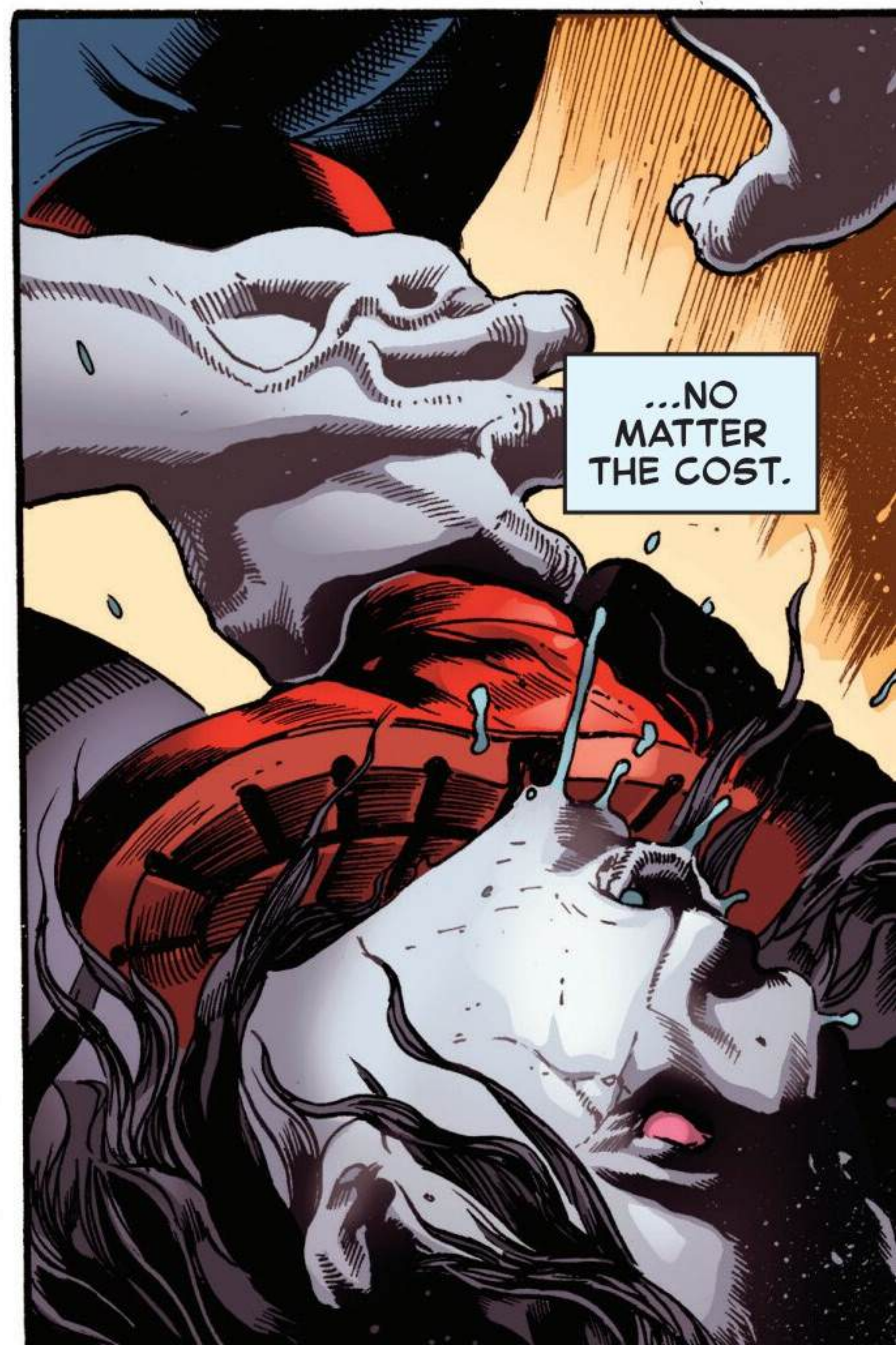
AND THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO DO THAT.



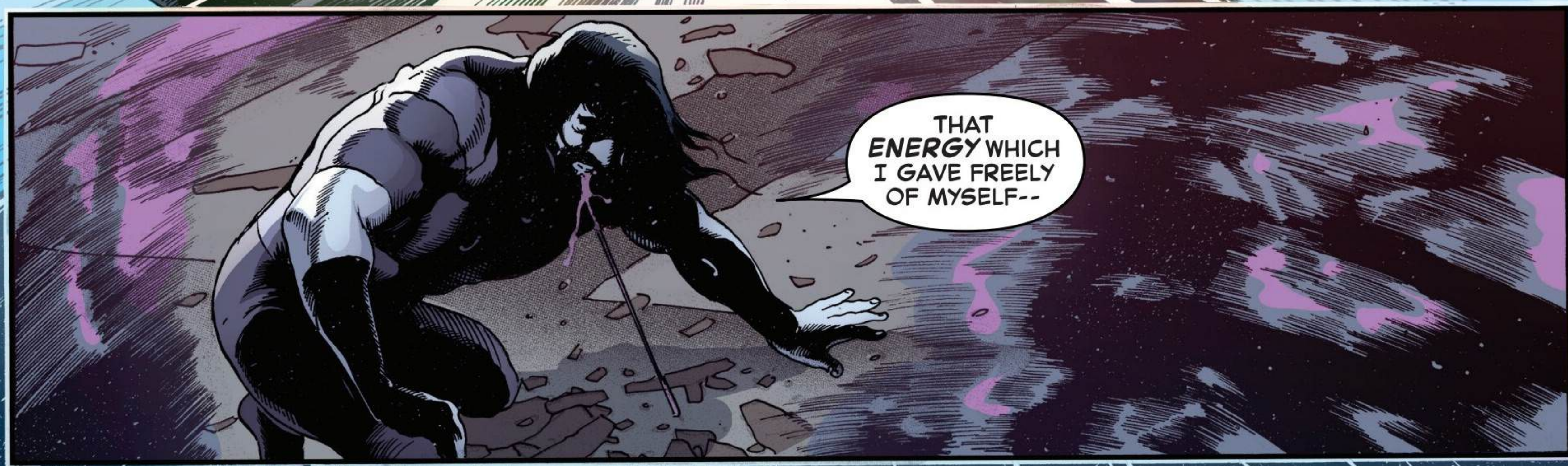
BY SHOWING HIM THAT I WON'T STOP UNTIL THAT HAPPENS...



...UNTIL I END HIM...



...NO MATTER THE COST.



--I NOW
TAKE
BACK.

AAAAAAAAAGHHHH!



WELP.
I GUESS
THIS IS IT.



DOESN'T MATTER,
AS LONG AS I GO
DOWN FIGHTING.



NO...!
SHE HAS
SUCCEEDED.
THEY ARE--



--BEYOND
MY REACH.

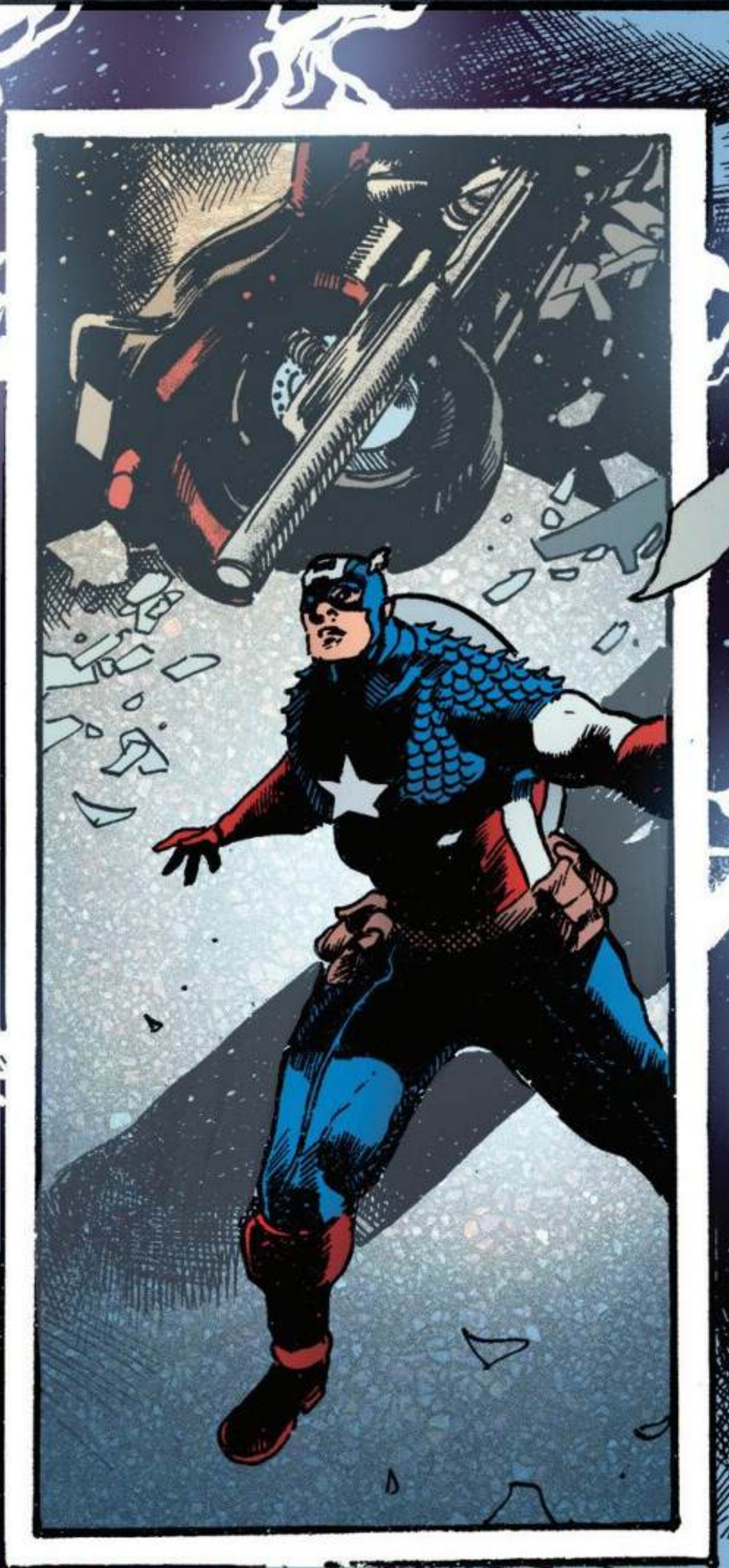


YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND
WHAT YOU'VE DONE...
WHAT *THEY* WILL
DO.



THROUGH
THEM, YOU HAVE
EXTENDED THE
SUFFERING AND MISERY
OF THE HUMAN
SPECIES.

ADDED TO THE
MILLIONS OF BODIES
IN THE WAR THAT IS TO
COME...AND TO MY OWN
MISERY IN *SHEPHERDING*
THEM ACROSS THE
DARKNESS.



AS SOON AS MY HANDS
STOP SHAKING, I GET BACK
ON THE BIKE AND HEAD FOR
THE **FRONT DOOR**.
AND I WONDER--

--AM I TOO LATE?
DO I STILL HAVE A
CHOICE IN WHATEVER
LYRA HAD IN MIND?

AND THEN I SEE IT,
AND REALIZE THAT
I'M TOO LATE...

THEY'RE
GONE...

F D

OVER THE NEXT WEEK, WHILE I
WAIT FOR THE BREAKS TO HEAL,
I SEARCH EVERY GOVERNMENT
AND PRIVATE DATABASE ON THE
PLANET FOR REFERENCES TO THE
FRONT DOOR OR IF ANYONE'S
SEEN A NIGHTCLUB APPEAR
OUT OF NOWHERE.



BUT THERE'S
NOTHING...
ABSOLUTELY
NOTHING.



AND I WONDER...WILL I
EVER KNOW WHAT THEY WERE
RUNNING TO AND RUNNING
FROM, OR WHAT HAPPENED
TO THEM? LYRA...CARLOS...
BECCA...JULIE, MALIK
AND HIS GUARDIAN.



WILL I EVER
SEE ANY OF
THEM AGAIN?

I DON'T
KNOW...I
DON'T KNOW...



...MAYBE I'LL
NEVER KNOW.





CAPTAIN AMERICA

TO BE, OR NOT TO BE, BROXTON

Nº 14

Oklahoma.
Six Weeks Ago.



"AS SEEN IN
THIS DOCUMENTARY,
PRODUCED BY THE
REMEMBER BROXTON
MEMORIAL FUND--"



The town next door...

--IN FOOTAGE
TAKEN BEFORE THE TOWN
WAS DESTROYED BY THE GOD
OF HAMMERS FOR REASONS
NO ONE QUITE UNDERSTANDS
TO THIS DAY.* IT WAS A QUIET,
FRIENDLY, INNOCENT
TOWN--

--THAT OPENED
ITS DOORS, AND ITS
HEART, TO A COMMUNITY
OF ASGARDIANS WHO
APPEARED ON THEIR
DOORSTEP ONE DAY.

WE KEEP THIS ON PRETTY CONSTANT
ROTATION. BIGGEST THING TO EVER
HAPPEN IN THIS PART OF THE
WORLD, THOR.

AT LEAST BILL
DIDN'T HAVE TO SEE WHAT
HAPPENED...POOR GUY.

*IN THOR (2022)
#20. --ALANNA

A TOWN OF
QUAINT SHOPS,
HAPPY HOMES AND BIG
DREAMS. WE STOPPED AT
THE LOCAL DINER FOR
THE BEST BURGER
WE'D HAD IN--

THAT STRANGE
FLUTTER IN THE IMAGE,
WHAT IS IT?

--IN...
INNNN...A VERY
LONG--

NO IDEA.
THE GUYS WHO FILMED IT
SAID THEY TRIED EVERY TRICK
THEY KNOW, BUT THEY CAN'T
GET RID OF IT.

YOU KNOW THE
ONES WHO MADE
THIS?

WENT TO HIGH
SCHOOL
TOGETHER.

CAN YOU
CONTACT
THEM?

SURE.

THEY SPEND MOST DAYS AT HOME
WAITING FOR HOLLYWOOD TO
CALL. THIS IS GONNA BE A
WHOLE LOT BETTER.

YOU WANT
A COFFEE?

ALWAYS.

SERIOUSLY,
HOW HARD CAN
THIS BE?

I MEAN, YEAH, THE **LAST** TIME I CALLED STEVE WHEN I THOUGHT THE **SINISTER SIX** WERE COMING TO **KILL** ME AND I ALREADY HAD A **CRACKED RIB** AND I NEEDED SOME **HELP**, IT ENDED UP BEING A **FALSE ALARM** AND I **WASTED HIS ENTIRE EVENING** AND I STILL CRINGE WHENEVER I THINK ABOUT IT.



SO OTHER THAN **THAT** AND THE VERY REAL LIKELIHOOD HE'LL JUST HANG UP ON ME OR BLOCK MY NUMBER, WHY **NOT** JUST GIVE HIM A CALL AND SAY--

--"HEY, IT'S SPIDER-MAN...WANNA GET DINNER SOMETIME?"



OKAY. SO WE'RE DOING THIS. HERE WE GO. RIGHT NOW.



YEP. DOING THIS. AND PUSHING THE CALL BUTTON... **NOW.**



OR NOT.



I AM **SUCH** A LOSER.



"I MADE THE CALL, AND I GOT WHAT WE NEEDED."



I MAY NOT BE
A S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT
ANYMORE--I MEAN, NO ONE IS--
BUT I STILL HAVE MY CONNECTIONS.
I GOT MY HANDS ON THE BEST
VIDEO-ANALYSIS EQUIPMENT
ON THE PLANET.

AND
WHAT HAVE YOU
CONCLUDED, ROZ
SOLOMON?



MOST BUSINESSES WITH
VIDEO SURVEILLANCE KEEP
THEIR FILES OFF-SITE WITH THE
SECURITY COMPANY. SO I WAS
ABLE TO CROSS-REFERENCE
A TON OF SECURITY CAMERA
FOOTAGE WITH THE VIDEO YOU
GAVE ME...AND HERE'S
THE THING...

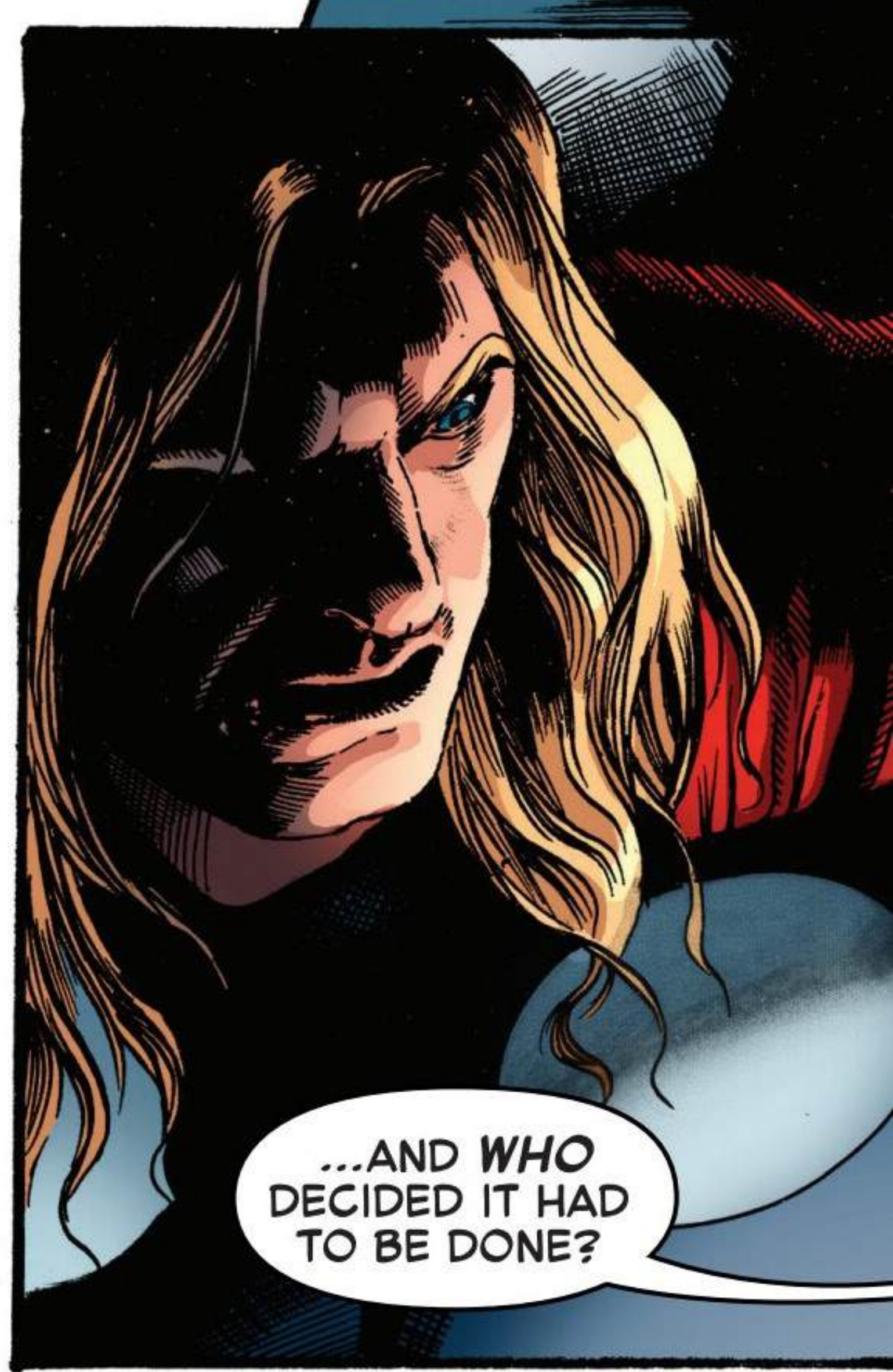


...**EVERY SINGLE** CAMERA
THAT WAS LIVE IN BROXTON
SHOWS THE **EXACT SAME**
ENERGY DISTORTION AT
THE EXACT SAME MOMENT.
SO **SOMETHING**
HAPPENED.

EXCEPT
NOTHING
HAPPENED. THE
TOWN WAS FINE
UNTIL THE GOD
OF HAMMERS
DESTROYED
IT.



NOTHING HAPPENED
THAT WE **KNOW** ABOUT.
QUESTION IS, WHAT WAS IT,
WHAT DID IT DO AND, MOST
IMPORTANT OF ALL, **WHY**
DID IT DO WHAT
IT DID...



...AND **WHO**
DECIDED IT HAD
TO BE DONE?



AND HERE IT IS...
ONE PERFECT
MOMENT.



"RHAPSODY IN BLUE." IF THERE WAS EVER A MORE PERFECT PIECE OF MUSIC THAT'S BEEN WRITTEN, SOMEBODY SHOW IT TO ME. JUST THE RIGHT ACCOMPANIMENT.



HAVEN'T HAD A CHANCE IN MONTHS TO JUST *SIT AND READ* WITHOUT FIGHTING SOMEONE OR RUNNING AROUND THE WORLD.



COFFEE, BAGEL AND BOOKS, NATURE'S PERFECT COMBINATION.

AT LAST, PEACE AND--

NOK-NOK



MRS. ROSEN--

HELLO, STEVE, I HOPE I'M NOT INTERRUPTING ANYTHING.

NO, NOT AT ALL. COME ON IN.



OH, I SMELL
COFFEE AND
BAGELS.

YES...

YOU LIKE
BOILED OR
STEAMED?

BOILED.
BETTER
CRUST.

PLAIN
OR POPPY
SEED?

EVERYTHING.

I LOVE A
MAN WHO CAN
COMMIT.



SO, WHAT
CAN I DO FOR
YOU, MRS.
ROSEN?

OH, WELL, I WAS
JUST CHECKING IN...
WHENEVER I'VE SEEN
YOU THE LAST
COUPLE OF WEEKS,
YOU'VE BEEN ALL
ALONE, WITH A KIND
OF SAD, THOUGHTFUL
EXPRESSION. SO I
THOUGHT I'D SEE
HOW YOU WERE
DOING.

I'M
OKAY. IT'S
JUST--

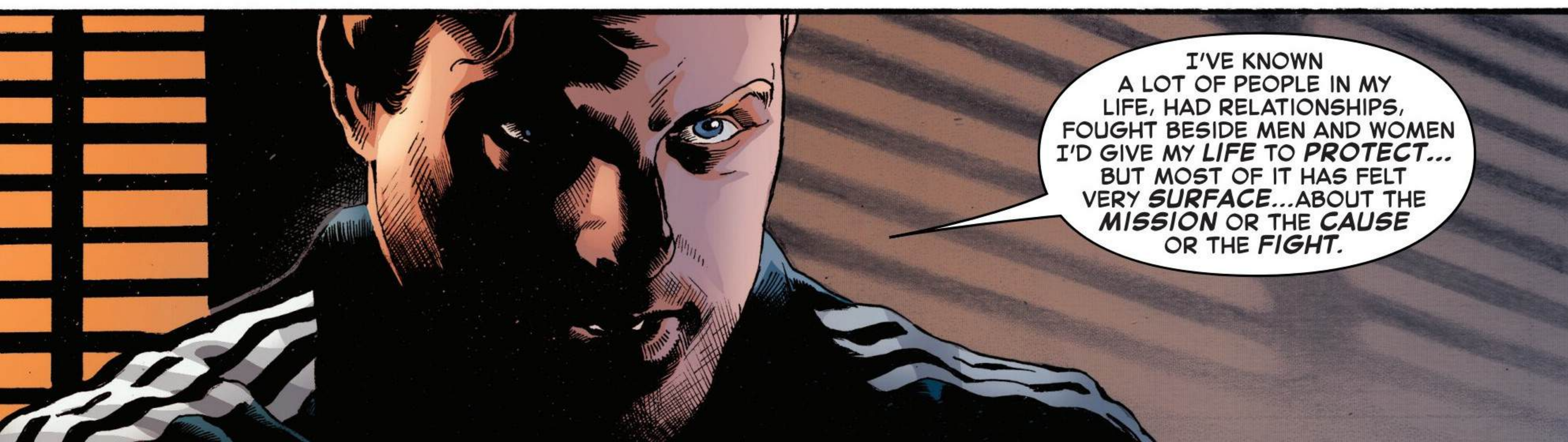


--LATELY I
WAS REMINDED
WHAT IT'S LIKE TO
HAVE FRIENDS TO
JUST...**HANG
OUT** WITH.



THERE'S ALWAYS BEEN A
DISTANCE BETWEEN ME
AND EVERYONE ELSE. AFTER
MY FOLKS PASSED, I TURNED
INWARD JUST TO
SURVIVE.

THEN WHEN I
BECAME WHO I **AM**,
I WAS ALWAYS FOCUSED ON
SAVING **OTHER PEOPLE**
BECAUSE I COULDN'T
SAVE MY FOLKS.



I'VE KNOWN
A LOT OF PEOPLE IN MY
LIFE, HAD RELATIONSHIPS,
FOUGHT BESIDE MEN AND WOMEN
I'D GIVE MY **LIFE** TO **PROTECT**...
BUT MOST OF IT HAS FELT
VERY **SURFACE**...ABOUT THE
MISSION OR THE **CAUSE**
OR THE **FIGHT**.



SO, YES,
I'VE HAD COMRADES
IN ARMS, EVEN DID THE
GROUP-THERAPY THING FOR
A WHILE, BUT IT NEVER WENT
ANYWHERE. I WAS STILL
ON THE OUTSIDE.
ODD MAN OUT.

BE NICE
TO BE ON
THE INSIDE OF
THAT FOR A
CHANGE.

WHEN I'M
HAVING A BAD DAY,
THERE ARE FRIENDS I
CAN GO TO JUST TO VENT,
TO LET IT ALL OUT, AND
I FEEL BETTER
AFTERWARD.

WHEN THE SUPER-
HERO BUSINESS
ISN'T GOING WELL,
OTHER THAN SHARON,
IS THERE ANYONE IN
YOUR LIFE WHO YOU
CAN VENT TO?

YOU KNOW THAT ONE-EYED FERAL
CAT WHO ALWAYS HANGS OUT
BEHIND SARDI'S?

YEAH--

WE'VE BEEN
THROUGH SOME
THINGS.

I'M JUST SAYING THAT IF
YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'RE ON THE
OUTSIDE, MAYBE IT'D BE GOOD
TO DEVELOP CLOSER TIES WITH
PEOPLE WHO DO WHAT
YOU DO--

--SO
THERE'S SOMEONE
YOU CAN JUST GO OUT TO
DINNER WITH, AND BUILD
FRIENDSHIPS.

IT'S A GOOD IDEA, BUT
IT RUNS RIGHT INTO THE
SUPER-POWER IDENTITY
PROTOCOL.

I'M SO
READY TO KNOW
WHAT *THIS* IS
ALL ABOUT.

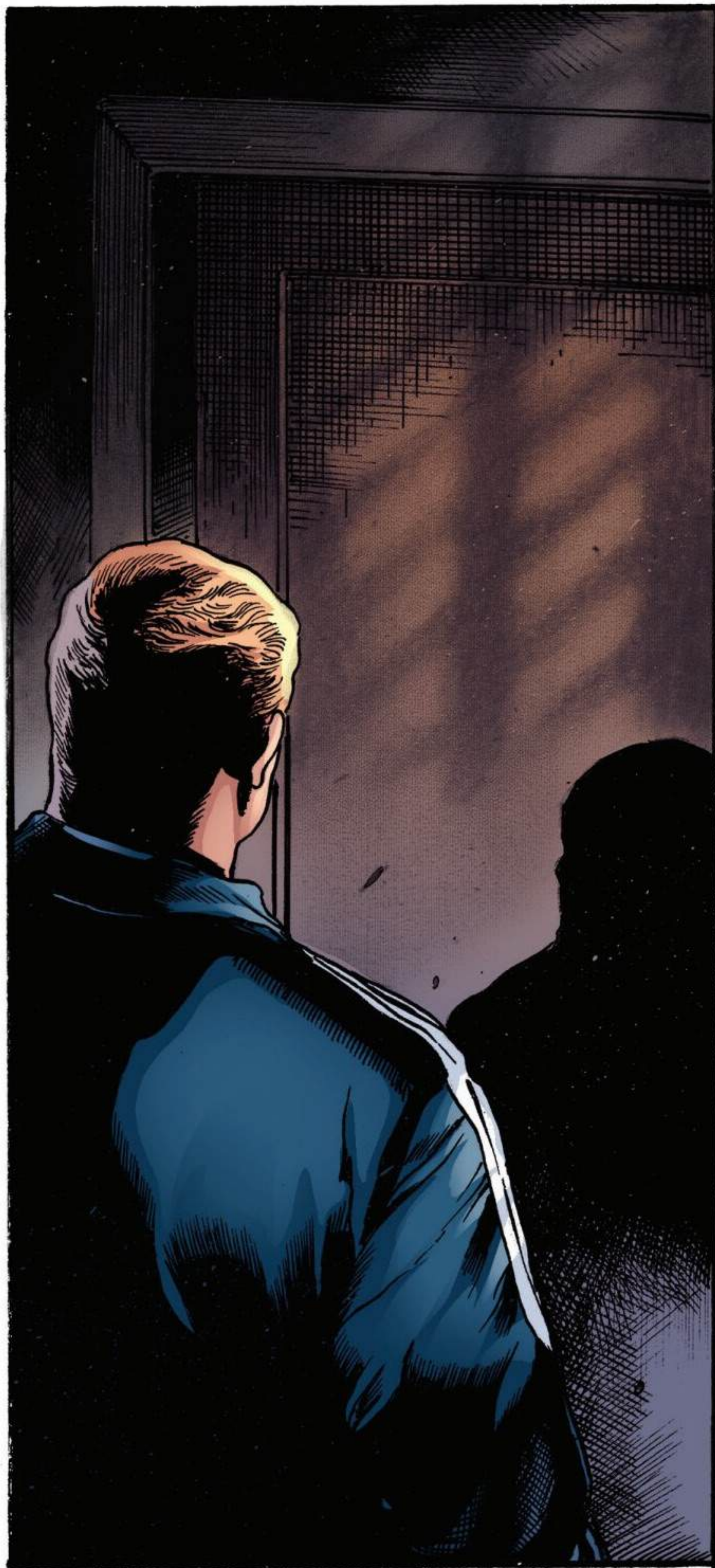


MAYBE YOU
KNOW SOMEBODY'S **SECRET
IDENTITY**, AND THEY'RE OKAY
WITH IT, BUT THEY ALSO KNOW
THAT IF YOU GO OUT TO DINNER
TOGETHER, SOMEONE WHO KNOWS
WHO YOU ARE MIGHT SEE YOU
AND FIGURE OUT WHO
THEY ARE--

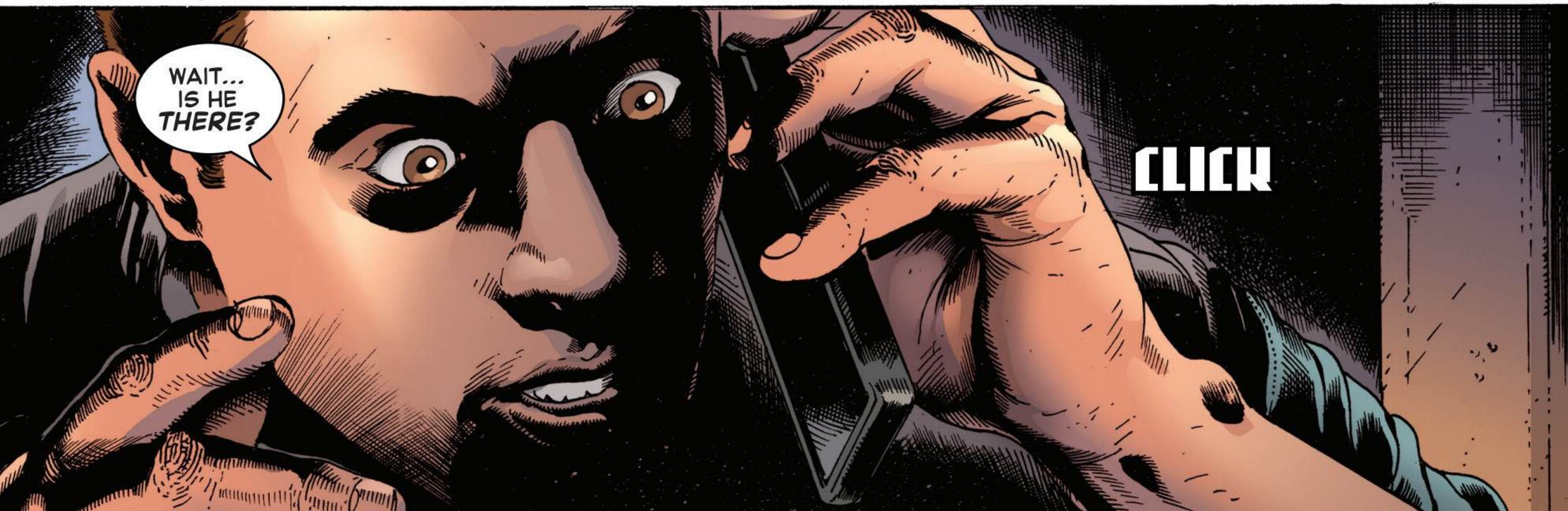
--OR YOU
KNOW WHO THEY ARE
BUT THEY DON'T KNOW THAT
YOU KNOW WHO THEY ARE, SO
IF YOU ASK THEM TO DINNER IN
A WAY THAT SUGGESTS YOU
KNOW, THEY MAY HAVE TO
TRY TO **KILL** YOU TO KEEP
THE SECRET--

--OR **NEITHER**
OF YOU KNOWS WHO
THE OTHER IS, BUT YOU WANT
TO BUILD SOME BRIDGES, SO
YOU MEET IN **UNIFORMS** AND
MAYBE **MASKS**, AND EACH OF YOU
WANTS TO TRUST THE OTHER BUT
NOBODY WANTS TO MAKE THE
FIRST **MOVE** AND IT'S A
REALLY LONG NIGHT--

--OR YOU
KNOW **THEIR** IDENTITY,
THEY KNOW **YOUR** IDENTITY,
BUT THERE'S ALWAYS THE RISK
THAT THE OTHER PERSON IS
BEING MENTALLY **CONTROLLED** BY
YOUR ENEMY, WHO WANTS YOU
IN A PUBLIC PLACE SO THEY CAN
ATTACK YOU OR **EXPOSE**
YOUR IDENTITY TO
THE WORLD.







47 Minutes Later...



--AND I BELIEVE THESE IMAGES GIVE HOPE THAT IN SOME WAY, BROXTON MAY YET BE RETURNED TO THE WORLD OF THE LIVING.



IT'S PEOPLE WELCOMED ME AND THE OTHER ASGARDIANS WHO RETURNED AFTER RAGNAROK AS THOUGH WE WERE FAMILY. THERE WAS LOVE AND CARE HERE.

IT'S DESTRUCTION BY THE GOD OF HAMMERS SERVED NO PURPOSE. IT WAS RANDOM AND PETTY, DESTROYED ONLY TO BRING GRIEF TO ME.



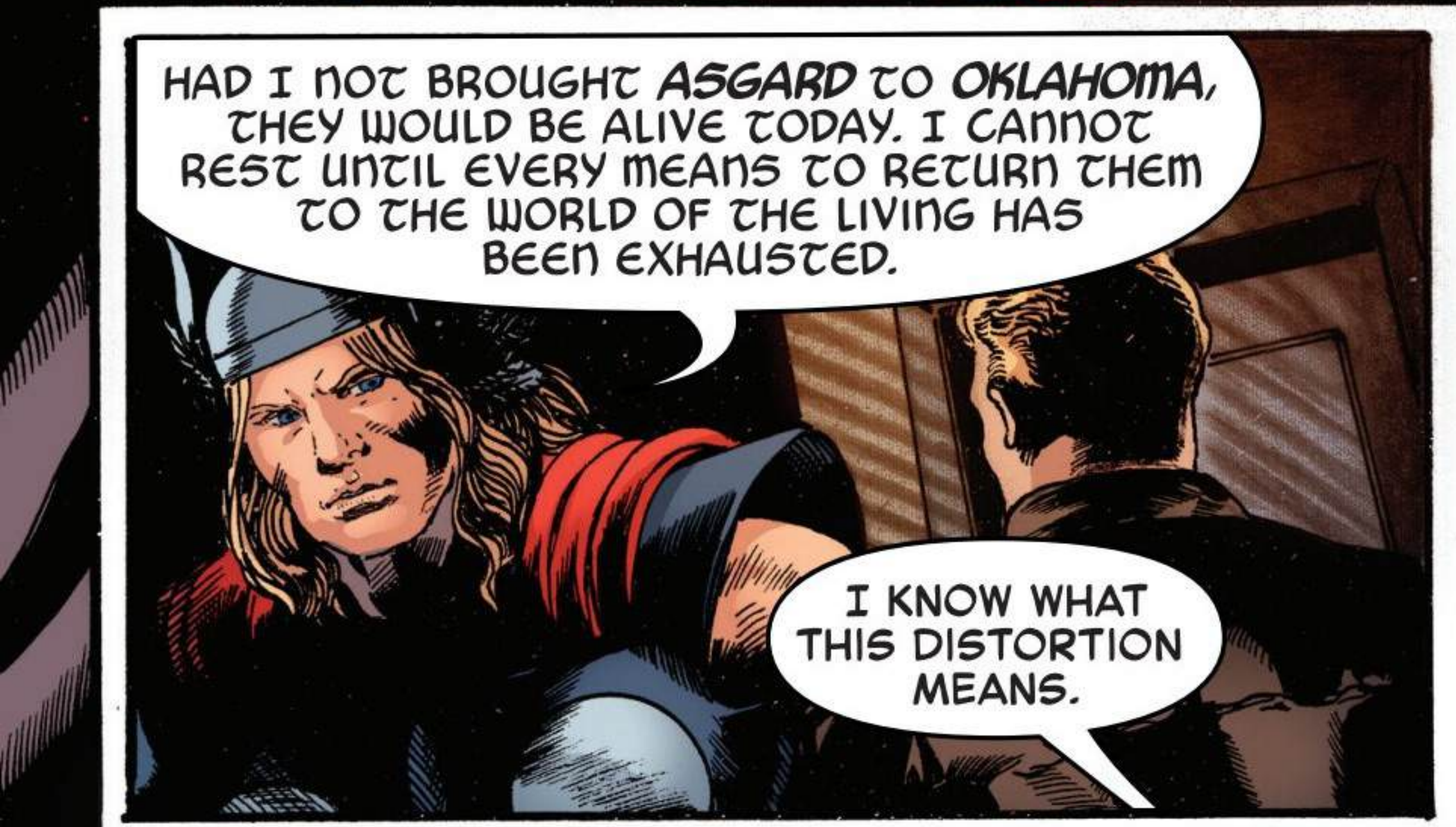
THE ATTACK CAME WITHOUT WARNING, IN STEALTH, AND SCORES OF INNOCENTS DIED AS A RESULT.

I BELIEVE YOU KNOW WELL WHAT THAT GRIEF FEELS LIKE... AND WHAT IT DOES.

YES. PEARL HARBOR.

HAD I NOT BROUGHT ASGARD TO OKLAHOMA, THEY WOULD BE ALIVE TODAY. I CANNOT REST UNTIL EVERY MEANS TO RETURN THEM TO THE WORLD OF THE LIVING HAS BEEN EXHAUSTED.

I KNOW WHAT THIS DISTORTION MEANS.



BUT I CANNOT DO THIS ALONE, CAPTAIN. ONLY YOU CAN--

I. KNOW. WHAT. THIS. MEANS.





IT'S
SOME KIND
OF MAGICAL
RESTORE
POINT.



EXCELLENT.
CAPTAIN, YOU WERE
WISE TO BRING
HIM IN.



SO.
WHAT IS A
RESTORE
POINT?



IT'S WHEN YOU
TAKE AN *IMAGE*
OR *SNAPSHOT* OF
THE COMPUTER'S
OPERATING SYSTEM
AT A PARTICULAR
MOMENT--



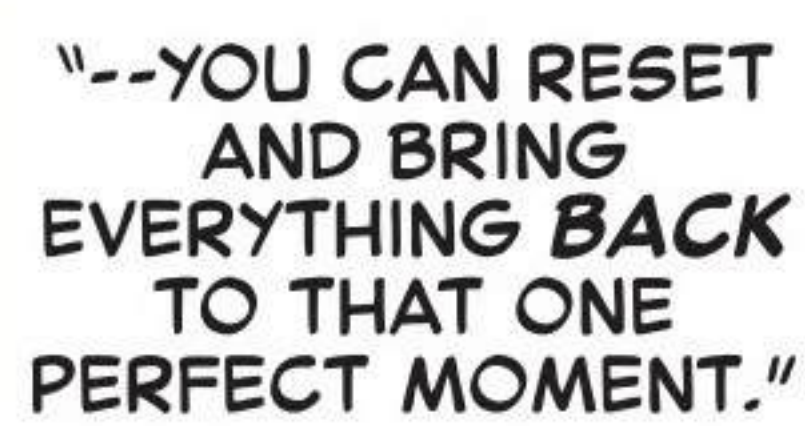
"--WHEN YOU KNOW
EVERYTHING IS WORKING
EXACTLY AS IT SHOULD,
THE WAY IT'S
SUPPOSED TO BE."

SOMEDAY, I'M
GONNA GO UP THERE
AND SEE THAT PLACE
UP CLOSE.

WHEN THE
MOMENT IS JUST...
PERFECT.

TWO
BURGERS
COMING
UP!

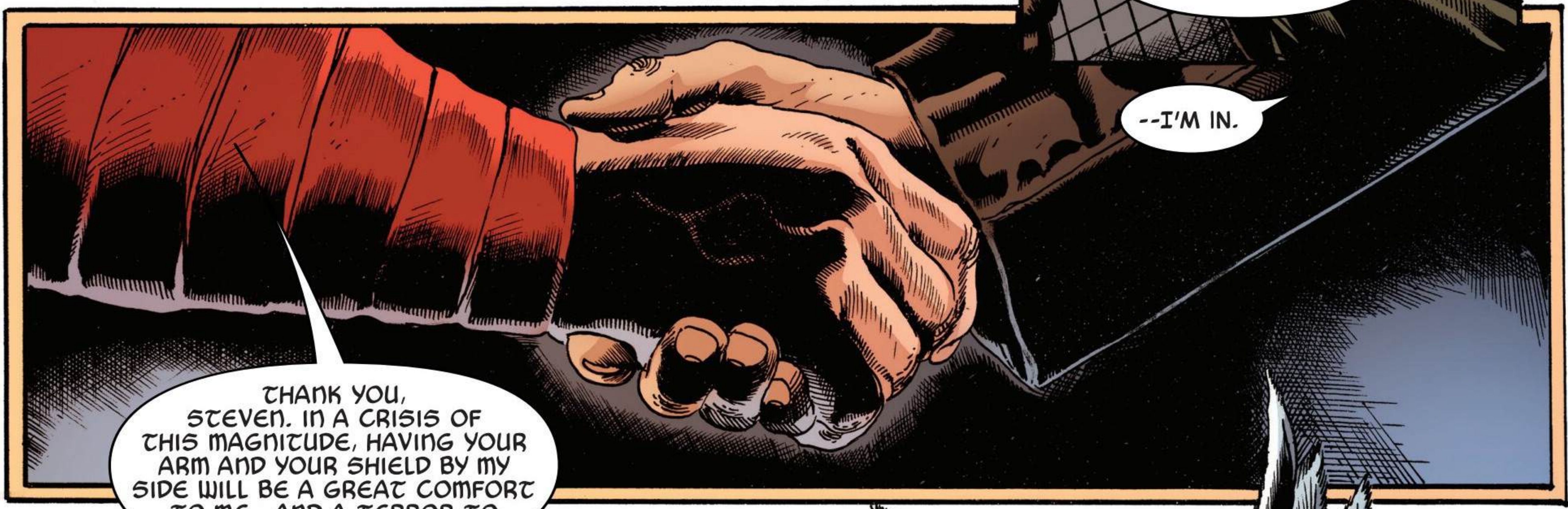
THANKS,
BILL!

[illegible]



I REFERRED TO PEARL HARBOR EARLIER. FOR ME, THAT DAY ISN'T ACADEMIC, ISN'T JUST HISTORY. I REMEMBER ALL OF IT. THE COWARDICE OF KILLING CIVILIANS. THE BRUTALITY. HOW RANDOM IT FELT, AND HOW WRONG.

WHEN BROXTON WAS DESTROYED, THOSE SAME FEELINGS CAME BACK ALL OVER AGAIN. THE SAME ANGER. I THOUGHT THERE WAS NOTHING I COULD DO ABOUT IT. BUT IF THERE'S EVEN A **CHANCE** WE CAN FIX THIS--



--I'M IN.

THANK YOU, STEVEN. IN A CRISIS OF THIS MAGNITUDE, HAVING YOUR ARM AND YOUR SHIELD BY MY SIDE WILL BE A GREAT COMFORT TO ME...AND A TERROR TO OUR ENEMIES.



AND YOU...IS IT YOUR DECISION TO ATTEND UPON THIS TASK?

I'D BE HONORED.

GOOD. THANK YOU.

THEN LET US DEPART.

"YOU WILL NOT SURVIVE. YOU KNOW THIS, YES?"







THOUGH ALL THE
FORCES OF *HEL*
STAND BEFORE ME,
I SHALL NOT
YIELD!

BRING RAGE!
BRING STORM!
BRING TERROR!
BRING SHIELDS
AND BLADES!

I SHALL
NOT YIELD, AND
I SHALL NOT
STOP!



FIGHT
AS YOU WILL,
DARK ASGARD
SHALL
FALL!

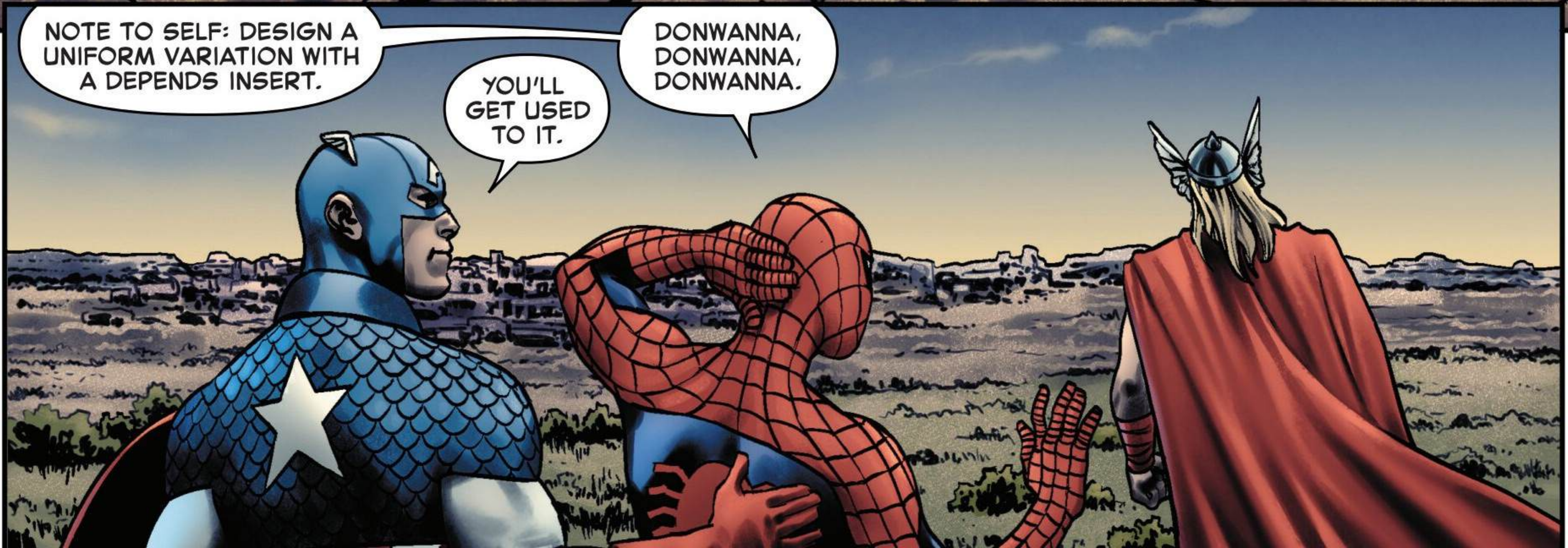
AND
THE LOST
SHALL LIVE
AGAIN!



CAPTAIN AMERICA

No 15

AND A TOWN SHALL RISE



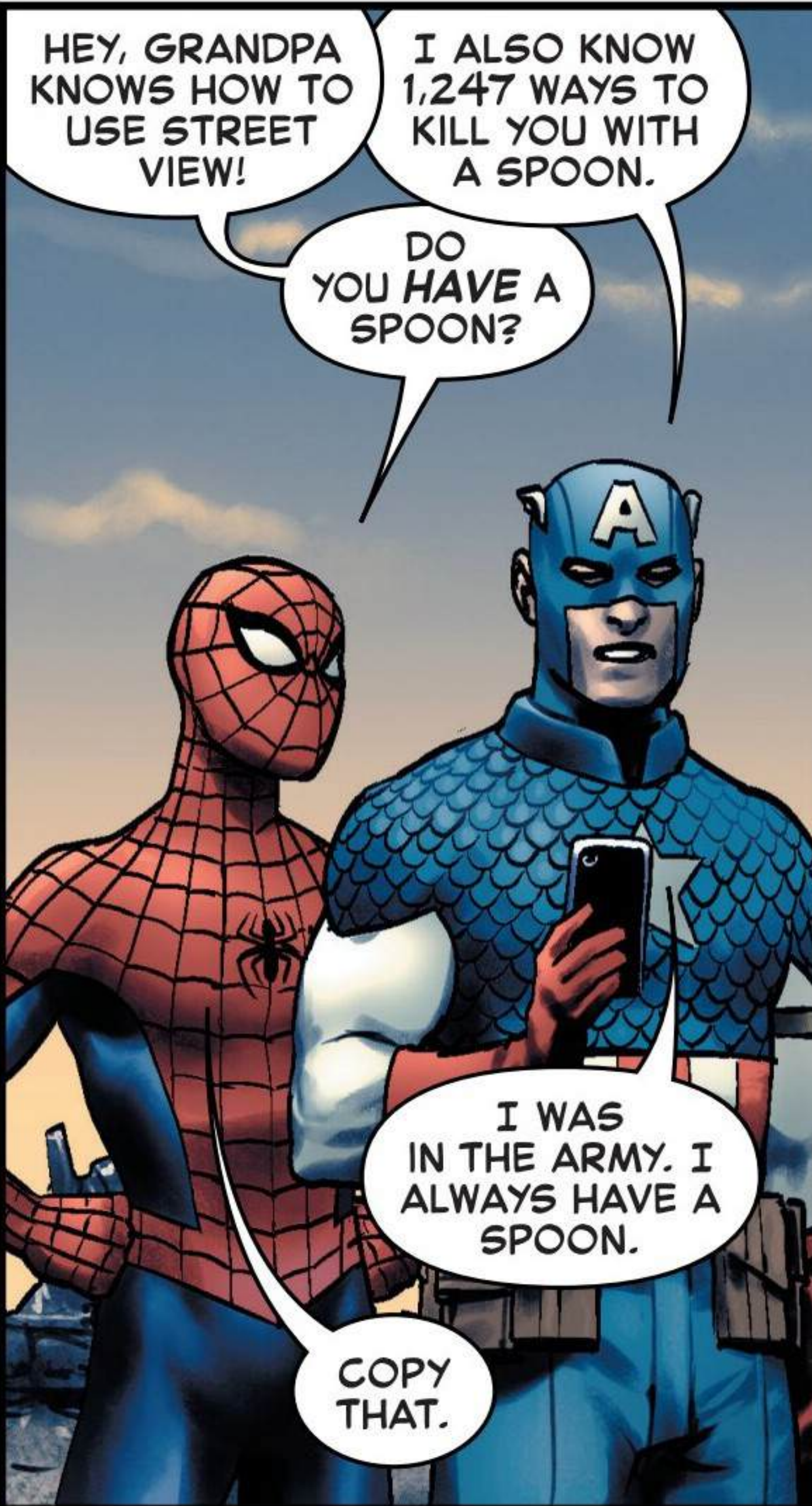


BEFORE BROXTON WAS DESTROYED BY THE GOD OF HAMMERS, THIS WAS THE TOWN SQUARE. IT WAS A GENTLE TOWN. A KIND TOWN. I WISH YOU COULD HAVE SEEN IT.

I HAVE, THOR.



IN CASE IT MIGHT COME IN HANDY, I DOWNLOADED A STREET VIEW RECORD OF THE TOWN WHEN IT WAS STILL HERE.



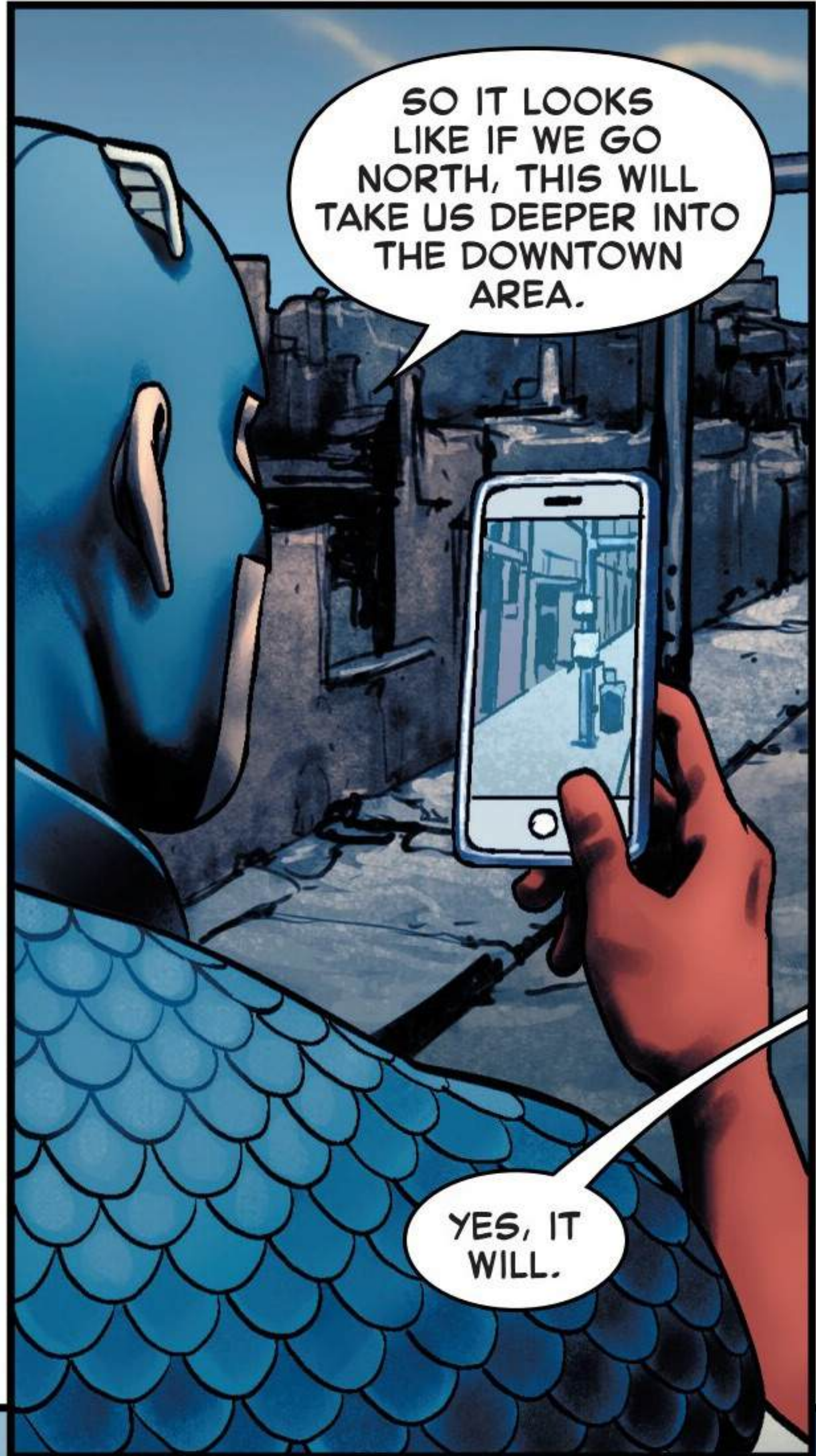
HEY, GRANDPA KNOWS HOW TO USE STREET VIEW!

I ALSO KNOW 1,247 WAYS TO KILL YOU WITH A SPOON.

DO YOU HAVE A SPOON?

I WAS IN THE ARMY. I ALWAYS HAVE A SPOON.

COPY THAT.



SO IT LOOKS LIKE IF WE GO NORTH, THIS WILL TAKE US DEEPER INTO THE DOWNTOWN AREA.

YES, IT WILL.



SINCE YOU WERE USING STREET VIEW, SEEMED LIKE A GOOD IDEA TO DO THE SAME, GIVE US A MORE ROUNDED VIEW OF THE TOWN.

WHERE DO YOU CARRY A CELL PHONE IN THAT OUTFIT?

SAME PLACE YOU CARRY YOUR SPOON, PAL.

COPY THAT.

MAY I?



YES. THESE WERE THE STREETS WALKED UPON BY GODS AND MORTALS LIVING SIDE BY SIDE. WE ACCEPTED EACH OTHER. LEARNED FROM EACH OTHER.



LOVED EACH OTHER.

YOU KNOW THESE TWO?



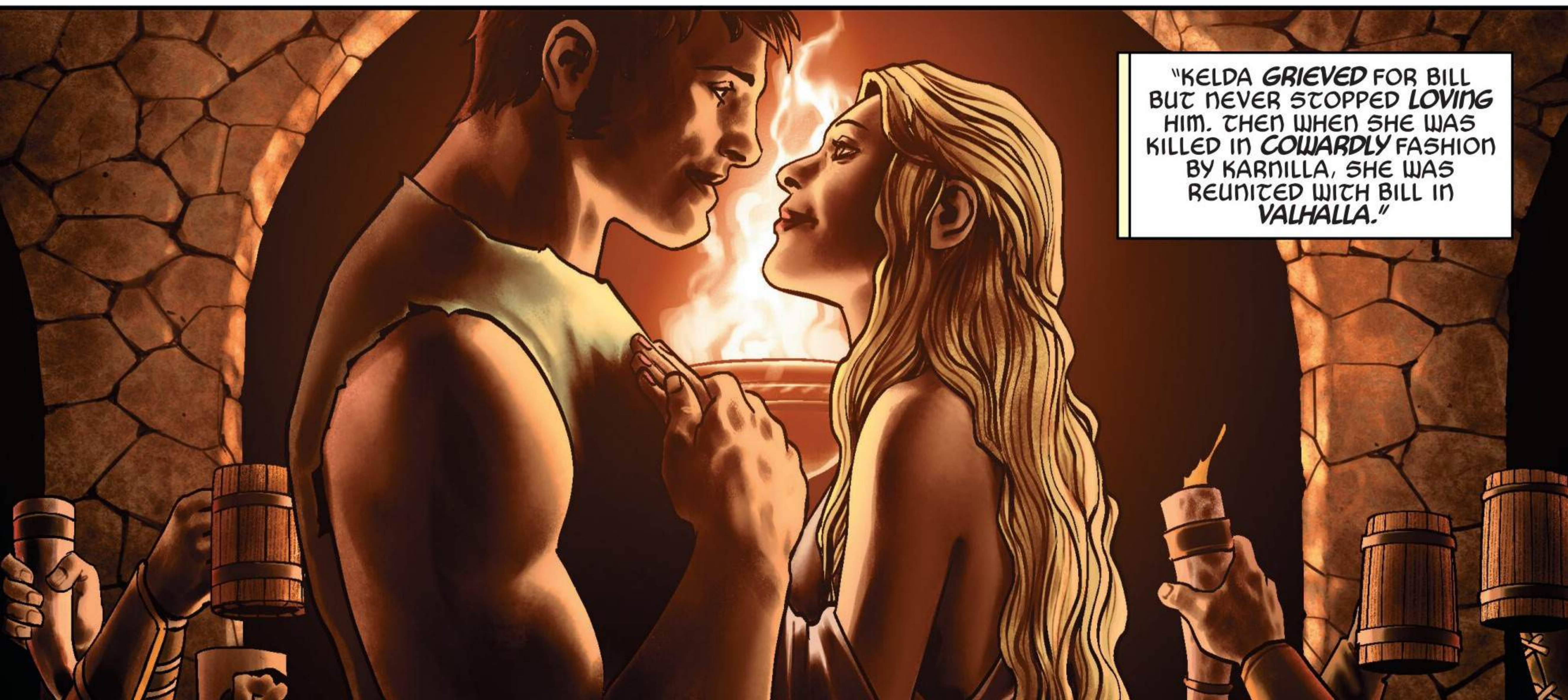
BILL, SON OF WILLIAM. FRY COOK. SOLDIER.

KELDA, ASGARDIAN GODDESS OF LIGHT AND LOVE.

RARELY HAVE I SEEN A LOVE AS GREAT AS THE LOVE THEY HAD FOR ONE ANOTHER.



"THOUGH ONLY A **MORTAL**, BILL ROSE FROM SIMPLE BEGINNINGS TO BECOME A **WARRIOR OF ASGARD**, AND GAVE HIS LIFE FIGHTING AGAINST LOKI'S FOLLOWERS.



"KELDA **GRIEVED** FOR BILL BUT NEVER STOPPED **LOVING** HIM. THEN WHEN SHE WAS KILLED IN **COUARDLY** FASHION BY KARNILLA, SHE WAS REUNITED WITH BILL IN **VALHALLA**."



BUT NONE
NOW LIVE WHO
REMEMBER THAT,
FOR BROXTON HAS
FALLEN AND
COWARDS HAVE
WON THRICE.

WHICH IS
THREE MORE
THAN I CAN OR
SHALL OR EVER
INTEND TO
COUNTEANCE.



MY *GUILT* OVER THE
DEATH OF THIS TOWN
BECAUSE OF MY SIMPLE
PRESENCE HERE HAS
NEVER HEALED, NOR
WILL IT, UNTIL THIS IS
SET FOREVER TO
RIGHTS.

YEAH,
I GET
THAT...



"...SOMETIMES I THINK MOST
OF US WHO GOT *INTO* THIS
BUSINESS ARE DOING IT TO
MAKE UP FOR SOMEONE WE
COULDN'T HELP WHEN THEY
NEEDED IT THE MOST."



I'M GOING TO PATROL AHEAD A BIT--
SEE WHAT I CAN FIND IN THE *PAST*
OR THE *PRESENT*.

THANK
YOU.

LISTEN,
THOR, JUST
SO YOU
KNOW--



--I'M *RIDICULOUSLY* EXCITED
ABOUT BEING BROUGHT INTO A
JOB LIKE THIS BY CAPTAIN
AMERICA--

--AND, WELL,
SURE, YOU
TOO--

--BUT I CAN'T
LET HIM *KNOW* THAT
BECAUSE IT'S NOT *COOL*, SO
I'M GIVING HIM A HARD TIME
WITH THE WHOLE "GRANDPA"
THING, LIKE I THINK HE'S
TOO OLD TO KNOW WHAT
STREET VIEW IS--



CAN YOU SUMMON THE
LIGHTNING WITH THAT THING
AND JUST, LIKE, *VAPORIZE*
ME?

IT WOULD BE
TOO *QUICK* AND
TOO *EASY*. SUFFERING
IS GOOD FOR
THE *SOUL*.

WELL,
YOURS AT ANY
RATE.

--AND YOUR
APPARENT
ASSUMPTION THAT
I CAN'T *HEAR* YOU
WHEN YOU
WHISPER.

GENTLEMEN...
I THINK YOU
SHOULD TAKE A
LOOK AT THIS.



THERE'S BEEN A CHANGE IN THE STREET VIEW FOOTAGE.

WHAT SORT OF CHANGE?



I THINK THE PAST KNOWS WE'RE HERE.



I SEE IT TOO.

SAY, HERE'S AN IDEA... LET'S TRY TO GET HER BETWEEN US, SEE WHAT HAPPENS.

THERE MAY BE COMPLICATIONS--

THERE ARE ALWAYS COMPLICATIONS, AT LEAST WE'LL LEARN MORE ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON.



OKAY, I'VE GOT HER. SHE'S LOOKING RIGHT AT ME. YOU TOO?

YUP. ANYTHING ELSE?

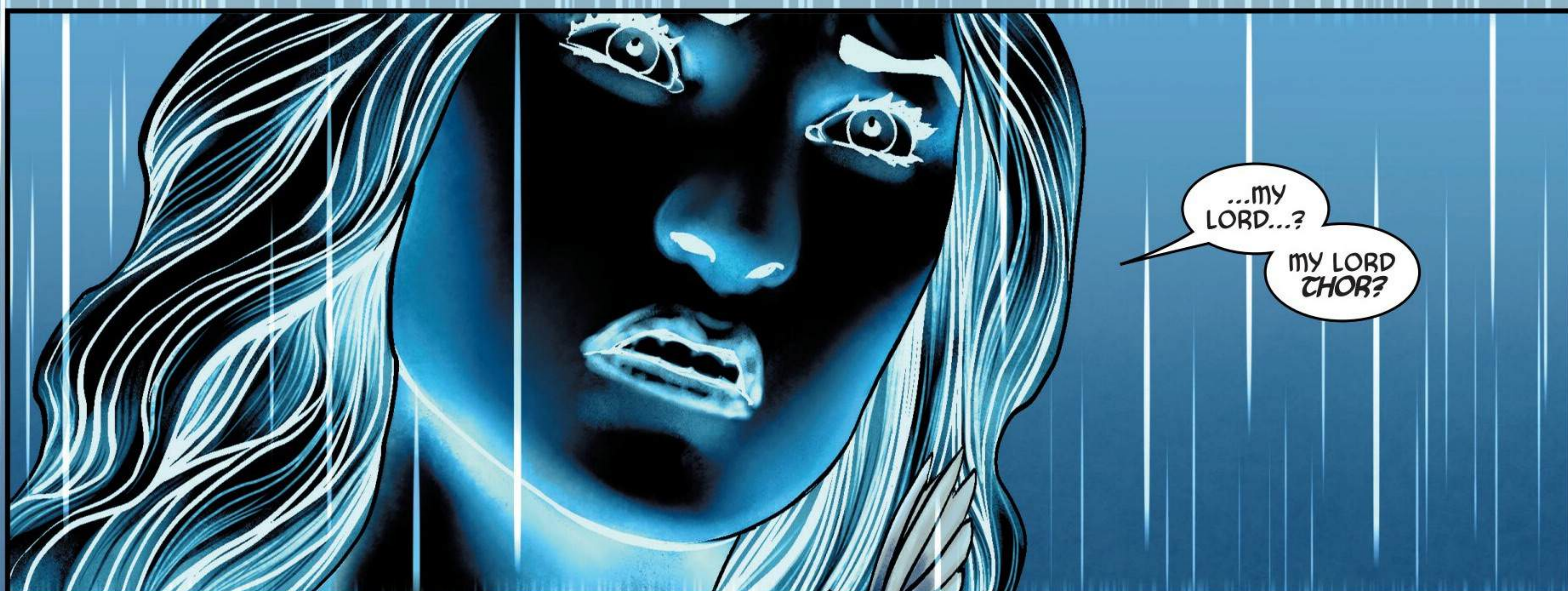
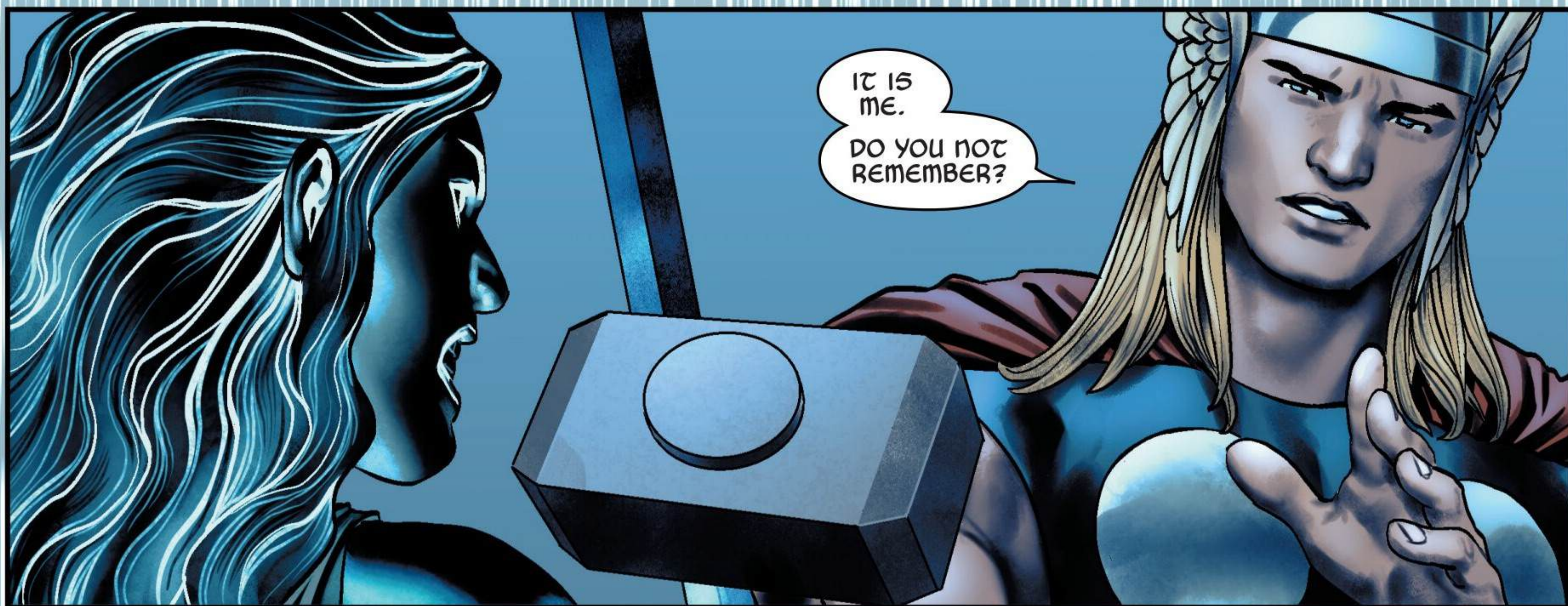
NOTHING SO FAR, I--



OH BOY.









"THOR SAID THAT YOU WERE KILLED AND WERE REUNITED WITH BILL IN VALHALLA."



SO HOW CAN YOU BE HERE?

I AM HERE... AND I AM *NOT* HERE... I AM THE KELDA WHO DIED... AND I AM THE KELDA WHO DID *NOT* DIE.



AND IN THAT VOID, THAT PAIN, THAT VAST IN-BETWEEN...

...I AM NOT ALONE.



"THE NIGHT THIS ALL BEGAN, I WAS WITH BILL, SON OF WILLIAM... AND, OH, HOW HE BLUSHED WHEN I CALLED HIM THAT...CAUGHT ON THE NAIL BETWEEN HONORED AND ANNOYED."



"AND AS WE LOST OURSELVES IN EACH OTHER'S EYES, I SUDDENLY SAW..."



"...HORROR. DEATH.
DESTRUCTION."



"I SOUGHT TO *STILL*
MY DESPERATE HEART,
TO SAY THAT THIS
WAS BUT A PASSING
FEAR, A SHADOW OF
THINGS THAT WOULD
NEVER ACTUALLY
COME TO PASS."



"BUT I HAVE HAD
VISIONS BEFORE, AND
I WAS EVER ABLE
TO SENSE WHICH
WERE TRUE AND
WHICH WERE *NOT*."



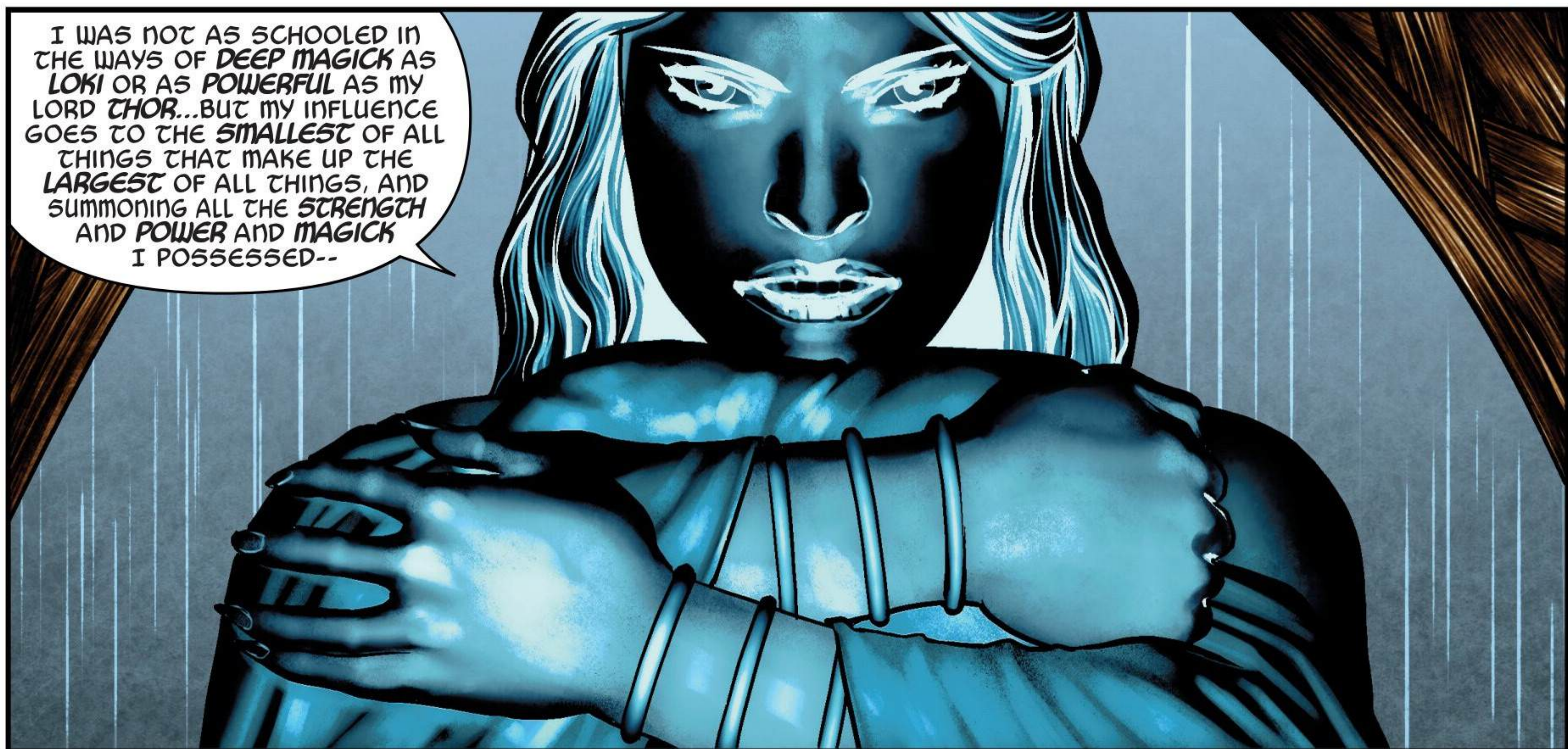
BUT NOT KNOWING THE
WHEN OR THE *WHY* OF IT,
THERE WAS NAUGHT I
COULD DO TO TRY TO
STOP IT OR WARN
AGAINST IT.



"AND IN THAT
MOMENT, CAME
AN ANSWER."

PRETTY AS
A PICTURE.

"I WOULD
TAKE A
PICTURE."



I WAS NOT AS SCHOOLED IN THE WAYS OF **DEEP MAGICK** AS **LOKI** OR AS **POWERFUL** AS MY LORD **THOR**...BUT MY INFLUENCE GOES TO THE **SMALLEST** OF ALL THINGS THAT MAKE UP THE **LARGEST** OF ALL THINGS, AND SUMMONING ALL THE **STRENGTH** AND **POWER** AND **MAGICK** I POSSESSED--



--THUS DID I **FREEZE** THE MOMENT AND **STEAL** THE MOMENT, THE TICK OF THE **CLOCK**, THE TURN OF THE **WHEEL**, THE BEAT OF THE **HEART** AND THE EXPELLED **BREATH**.

"**BROXTON**, AND MY **LOVE**, WERE CLEAVED IN TWAIN, ONE STAYING FOREVER IN THAT **MOMENT**, FOREVER **SAFE**, WHILE THE OTHER CONTINUED **ONWARD**.

"BUT WHAT I DID NOT **ANTICIPATE**--

"--WAS THAT I
WOULD BE SIMILARLY
SUNDERED."



THEN HOW CAN
YOU BE HERE
NOW?

I CAN **FORCE**
MYSELF TO APPEAR
BRIEFLY, BUT ONLY AT
GREAT COST...AND GREAT
PAIN. EVEN NOW I CAN
FEEL MYSELF BEING
PULLED BACK...TO THAT
MOMENT AND THAT
DANGER.



"FOR EVEN AS I WAS
SUNDERED, SO WAS
NEARBY **ASGARD**. A TWIN
CITY UNABLE TO MOVE
FORWARD OR **BACK**--A
TERRIBLE **DARKNESS**
HAS FALLEN OVER OUR
BELOVED HOME."

"OKAY, I THINK
I KNOW WHAT
WE NEED TO DO
TO **FIX** THIS."



GO
FOR IT.

YOU KNOW THE WHOLE SHRÖDINGER'S
CAT THING, THAT EVERY TIME WE MAKE A
DECISION, A NEW UNIVERSE GETS CREATED,
SO THE CAT IS BOTH ALIVE AND DEAD UNTIL
THE BOX GETS OPENED, THEN THE TWO
POSSIBILITIES COLLAPSE INTO
ONE REALITY?

YES.

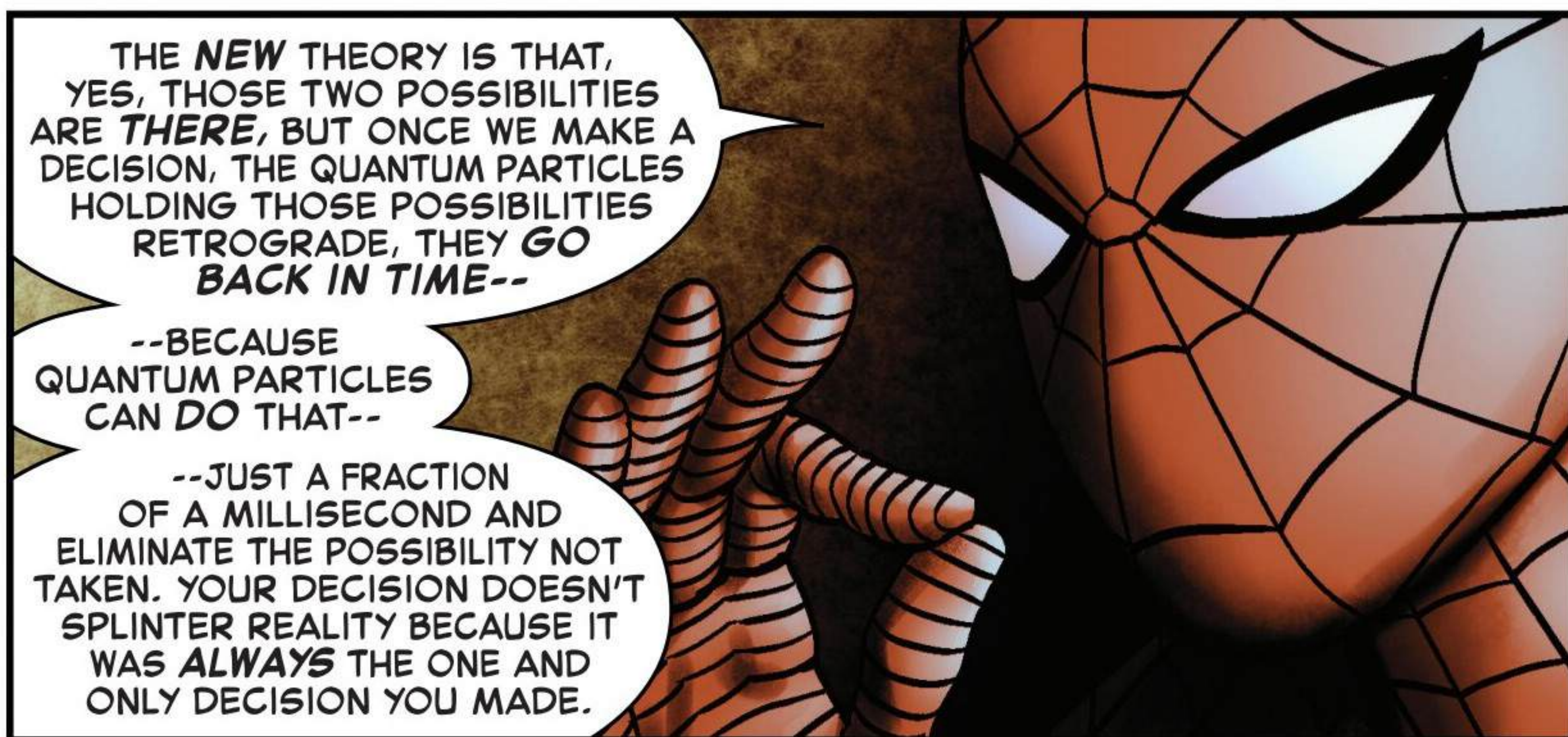
WELL,
IT MAY BE
WRONG.

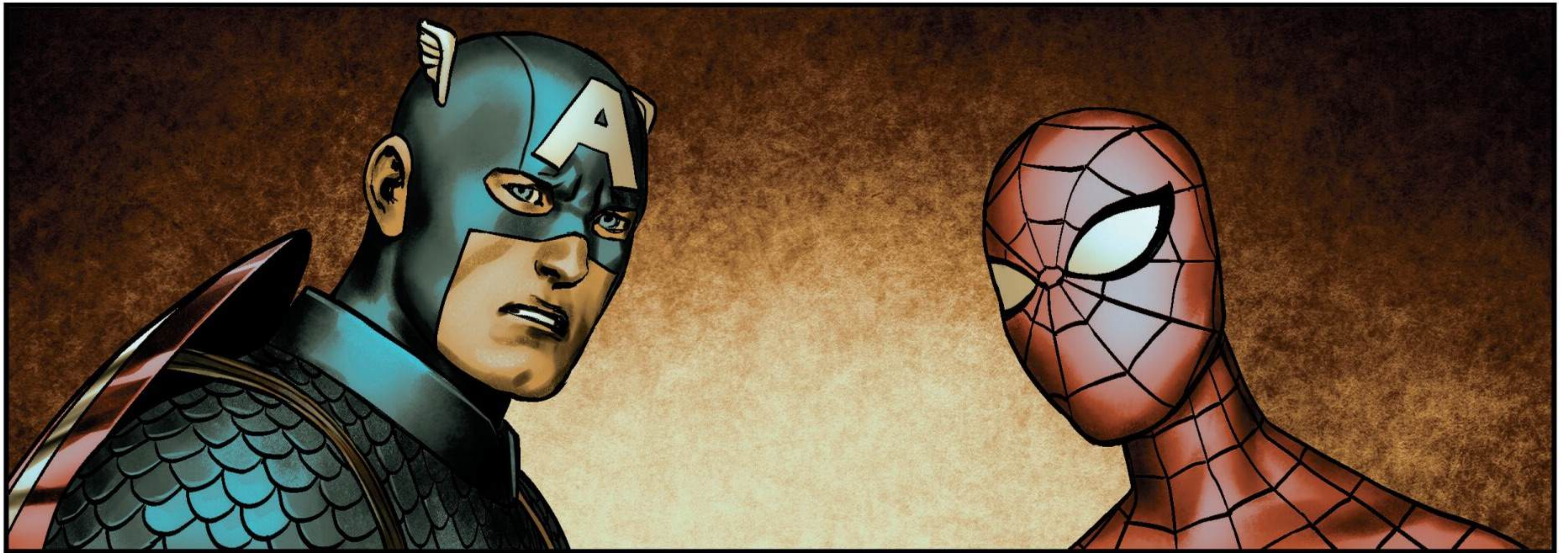


THE **NEW** THEORY IS THAT,
YES, THOSE TWO POSSIBILITIES
ARE **THERE**, BUT ONCE WE MAKE A
DECISION, THE QUANTUM PARTICLES
HOLDING THOSE POSSIBILITIES
RETROGRADE, THEY **GO**
BACK IN TIME--

--BECAUSE
QUANTUM PARTICLES
CAN DO THAT--

--JUST A FRACTION
OF A MILLISECOND AND
ELIMINATE THE POSSIBILITY NOT
TAKEN. YOUR DECISION DOESN'T
SPLINTER REALITY BECAUSE IT
WAS **ALWAYS** THE ONE AND
ONLY DECISION YOU MADE.







WHY HAVE YOU BEEN **UNABLE** TO RESTORE BROXTON UNTIL NOW?

IT IS SAFE TO RESTORE BROXTON BECAUSE THAT TOWN EXISTS NO MORE, AND OVERWRITING THE EMPTY SPACE WILL CAUSE NO ISSUES.



BUT IN THIS REALITY, **ASGARD** AND ITS CITIZENS STILL EXIST. IF WE BRING THAT MOMENT FORWARD, THOSE WITHIN **DARK ASGARD** WILL BECOME ONE WITH THEIR ORIGINAL SELVES, WHICH THEY SEE AS BEING ERADICATED.

WHICH IS WHY I'VE BEEN FOREVER **LOCKED** IN **BATTLE** WITH THEM, TRYING TO **BREACH** DARK ASGARD'S WALLS... FOR IT IS ONLY **WITHIN** IT THAT THE **RESTORE POINT** CAN BE FOUND.

THEN THAT LEAVES ONLY ONE CHOICE.



FOR BROXTON TO LIVE--

--**DARK ASGARD MUST FALL!**

HOW DO YOU DO THAT... MAKE THE **LIGHT BEND** AROUND YOU?

HAVE YOU **NO** UNSPOKEN THOUGHTS?

NO, NOT REALLY.

OPENING
THIS PORTAL TO
THE STOLEN *MOMENT*
WILL TAKE THE LAST
ENERGY I POSSESS...
I WILL BE LIMITED IN
HOW I CAN HELP YOU
ONCE WE PASS
WITHIN.

IT'S OKAY,
KELDA...WE'LL
TAKE IT FROM
THERE.

ENTER,
THEN...BUT AS
YOU PASS, DO NOT
LOOK BACK, FOR SUCH
DOORS HAVE
GUARDIANS.

DON'T LOOK
BACK, DON'T
LOOK BACK,
DON'T LOOK
BACK.

YOU
NEVER
LISTEN.



YOU SHOULD TAKE CARE TO ENSURE YOU ARE NOT NOTICED.

AND WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?



BE NOTICED.

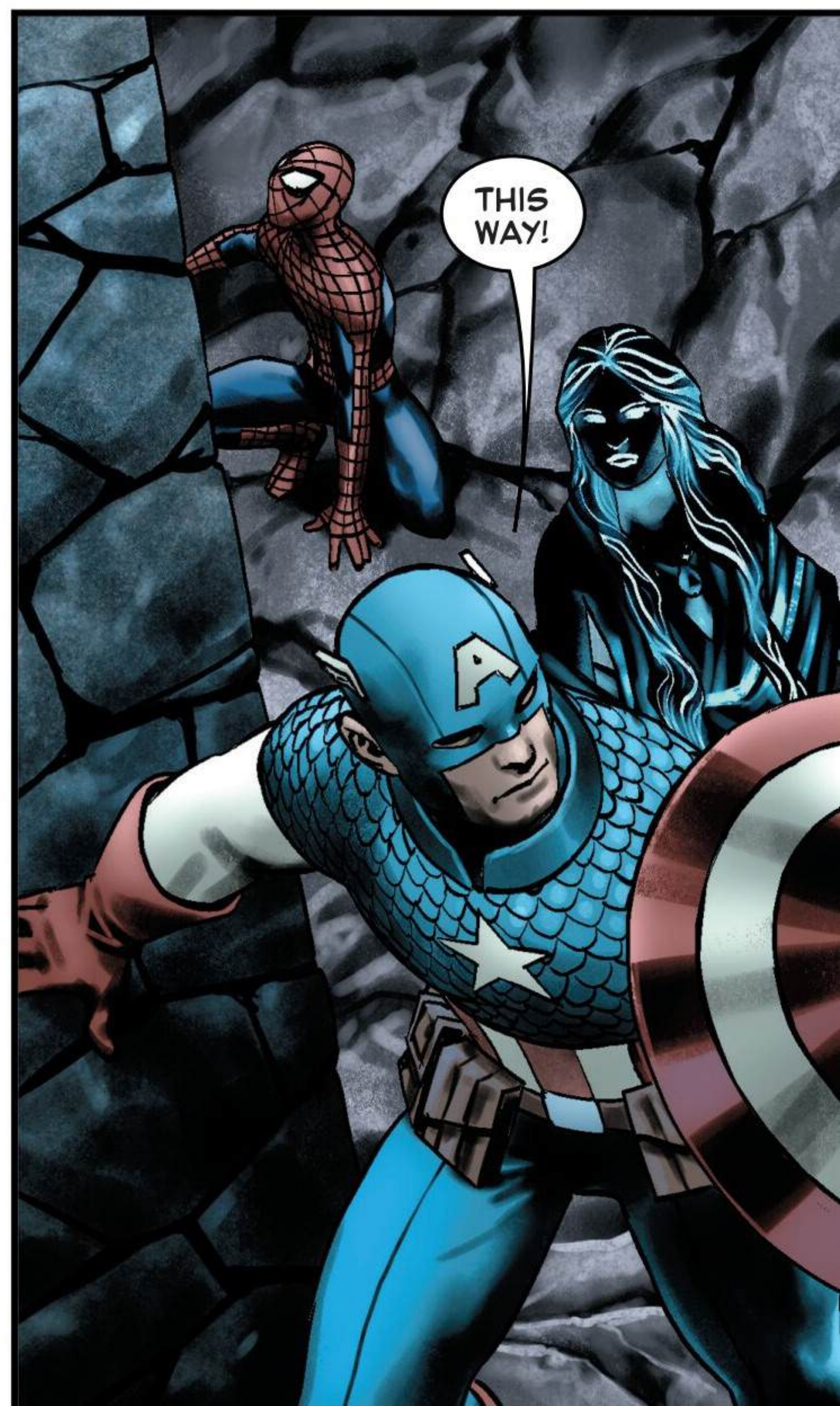
USE THE DIVERSION AS YOU SEE FIT.



YOU WHO WERE ASGARDIANS IN HONOR ONCE MAY YET BE AGAIN!



STAND ASIDE, OR BE THROWN DOWN!



THIS WAY!

Moments later.

THERE!
THE DOOR
IS JUST
AHEAD!



CAN'T
EVEN BUDGE
IT.

THE DOOR
IS GUARDED
BY DEEP
MAGICKS.



'TIS
GUARDED BY
MORE THAN
THAT.

AND AFTER YOUR
DEATHS, 'T'WILL
BE GUARDED EVEN
MORE BY YOUR
EARTHBOUND
SPIRITS!



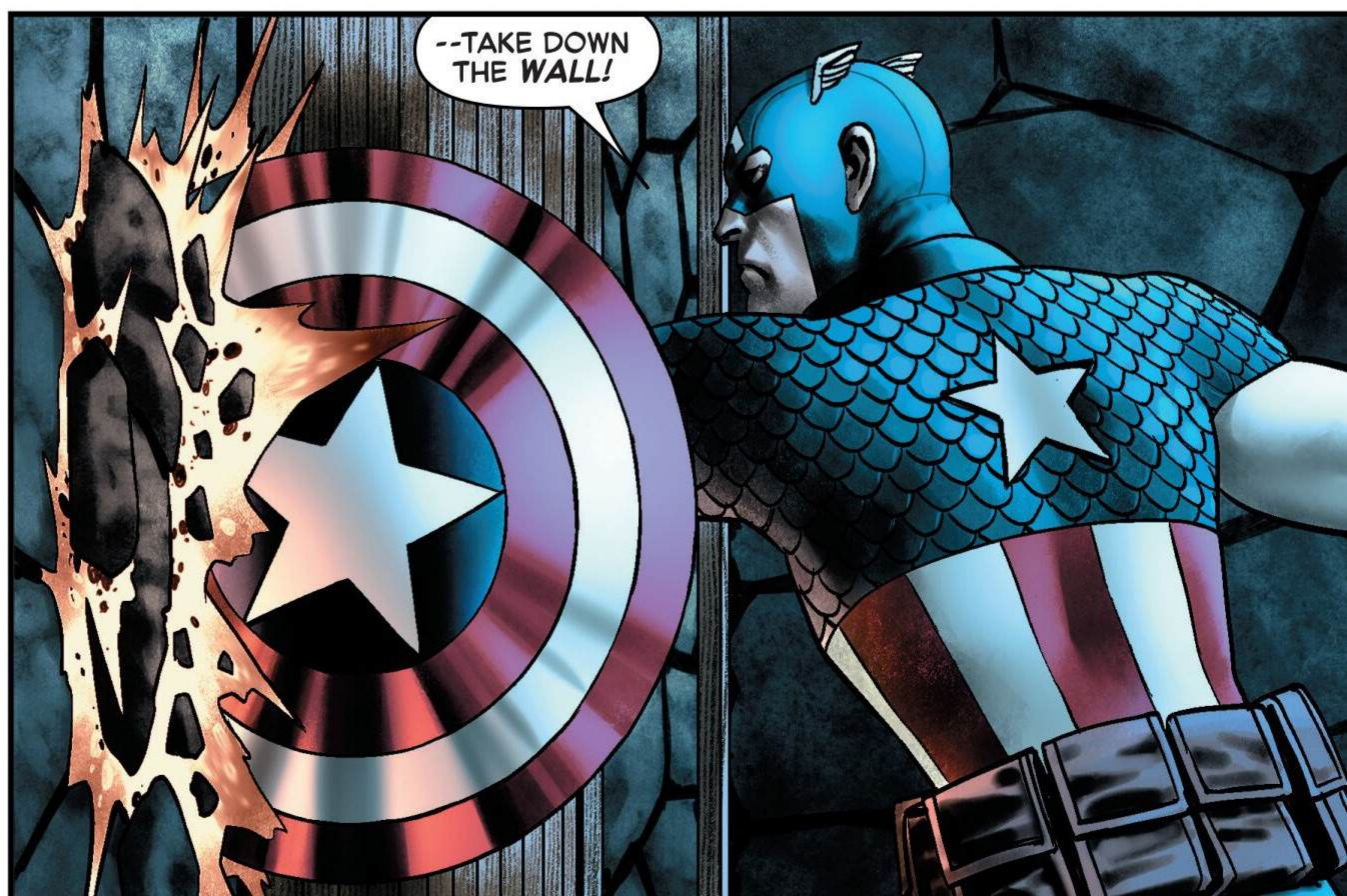
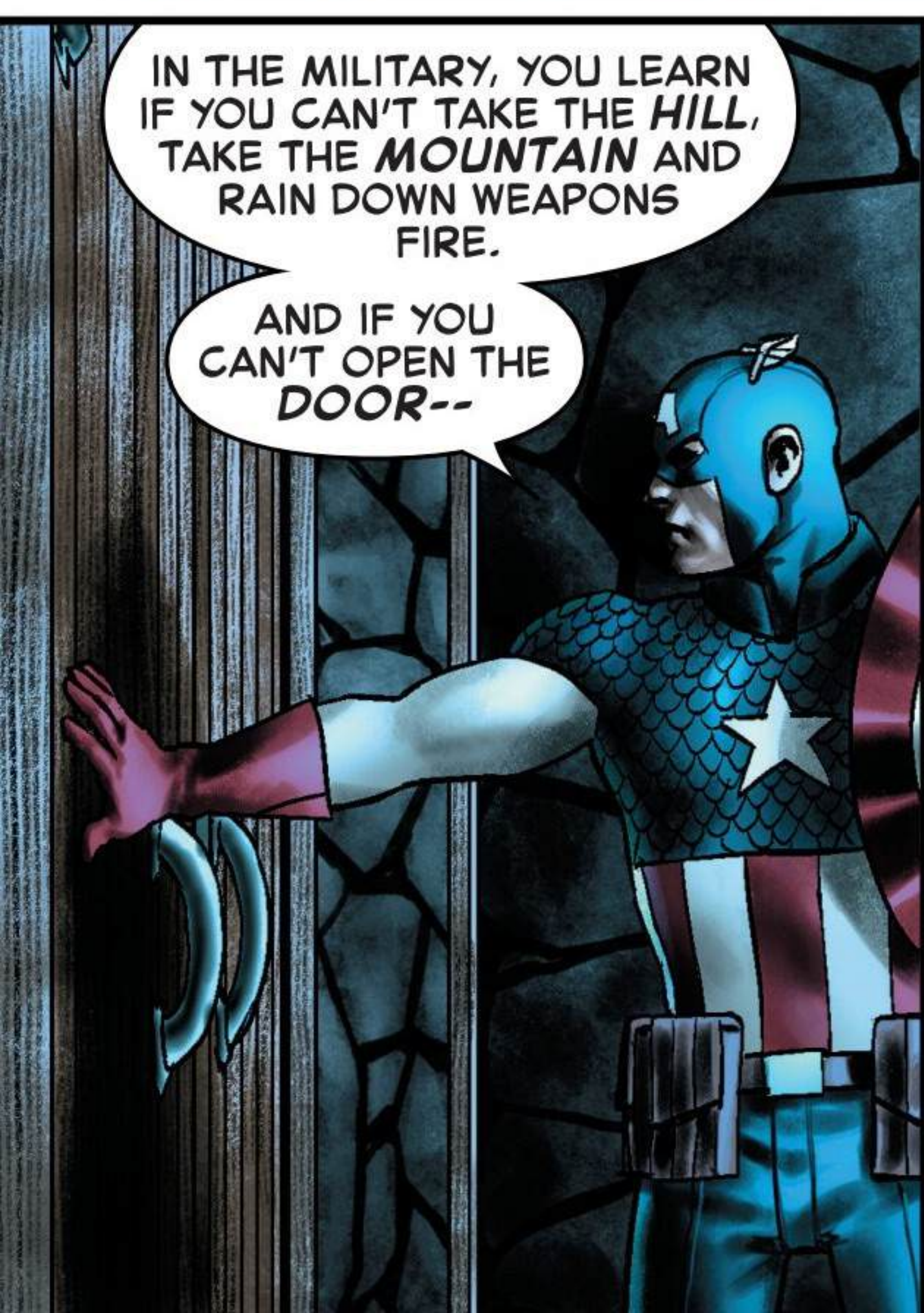
I HAVE NO QUARREL WITH
YOU, SO I SUGGEST YOU
MOVE ALONG BEFORE
YOU GET HURT.

YOU SPEAK THIS
WAY TO A GOD OF
THUNDER?

YEP.
WANT
TO MAKE
SOMETHING
OF IT?









MAY AS WELL GIVE UP, PAL...YOU'RE ONE AGAINST THREE.

NOT ANYMORE--



--IT IS TWO AGAINST TWO...AND A HALF.

THAT'S NOT FAIR, LOKI! KELDA'S JUST TIRED, SHE--

I WAS SPEAKING OF YOU.

OH.



NOT AS TIRED AS I WAS, YOU WHO WERE A DECEIVER EVEN BEFORE THE MOMENT TOOK YOU!

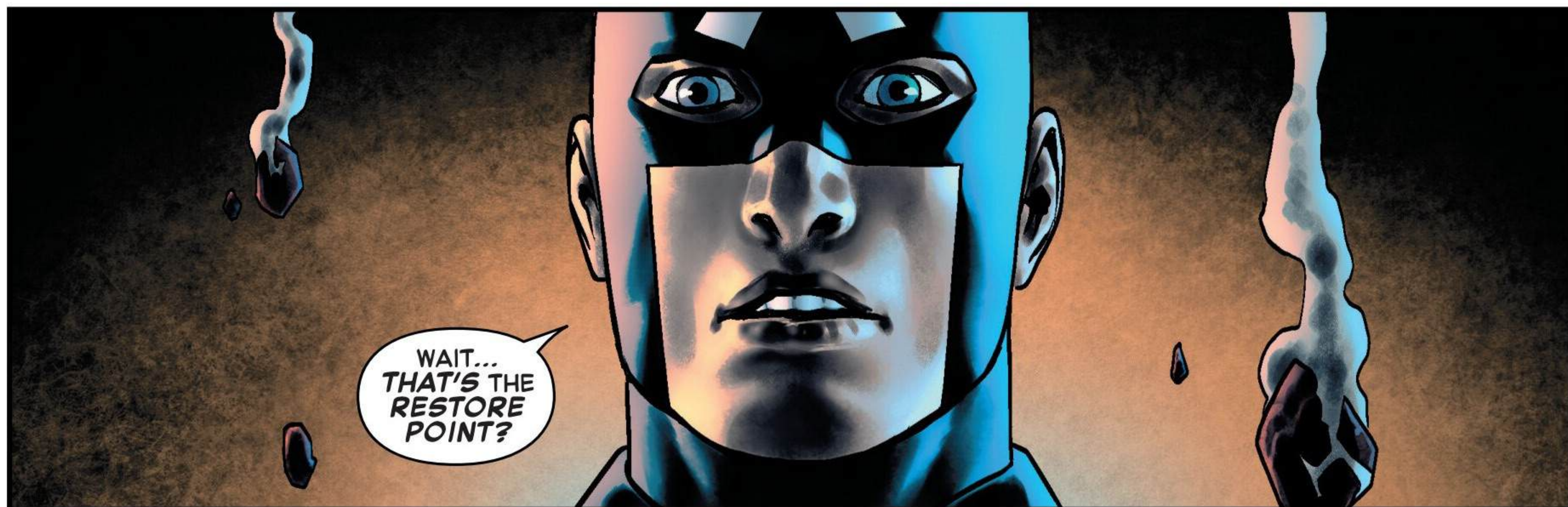


JUST GIVE ME TWO MORE SECONDS!

YOU SHALL HAVE THEM!



WE'RE IN! WE'RE--





#12 DISCO DAZZLER VARIANT BY
ELIZABETH TORQUE & FEDERICO BLEE



#13 VARIANT BY
DAVID YARDIN & ESPEN GRUNDETJERN



#14 DOOM VARIANT BY
DAN PANOSIAN

CAPTAIN AMERICA



No 16

END AT THE BEGINNING



KELDA--

WE NEED TO
GET HIM OUT
OF HERE
FAST.

BILL, SON
OF WILLIAM...
MY LOVE
WILL--

REMAIN
JUST WHERE
HE IS.



FOR US TO
CONTINUE, HE MUST
STAY HERE, IN THE
DARK, ALONE.

AFTER
YOUR *BURIALS*,
OF COURSE.



IS THAT
NOT CORRECT,
INSECT?

...THERRRRE'sss...



OH, YOU WISH TO *SPEAK*? VERY
WELL. THUS DO I PERMIT YOU
THE LAST BREATH YOU
SHALL EVER TAKE.

WHAT IS
IT YOU WISH
TO SAY?

...THERE'S...



FFFFFFFFFFFFFFF

...SOMEONE
BEHIND YOU.



TOLD YOU.

BROTHER OF LIGHT... COME TO JOIN US IN THE DARK?

NEVER.

THEN WE SHALL TAKE YOUR LIFE FORCE FOR OURSELVES.

YOU ARE WELCOME TO TRY.



DARK OR LIGHT, PUT MY BROTHERS TOGETHER AND THEY HAVE ALWAYS BEEN DIM.



AND WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU ARE GOING?



UMMMMM...

OUT.

YEAH, OUT! YOU HEARD THE MAN. SO STEP...THEE... ASIDE, VILLAIN!

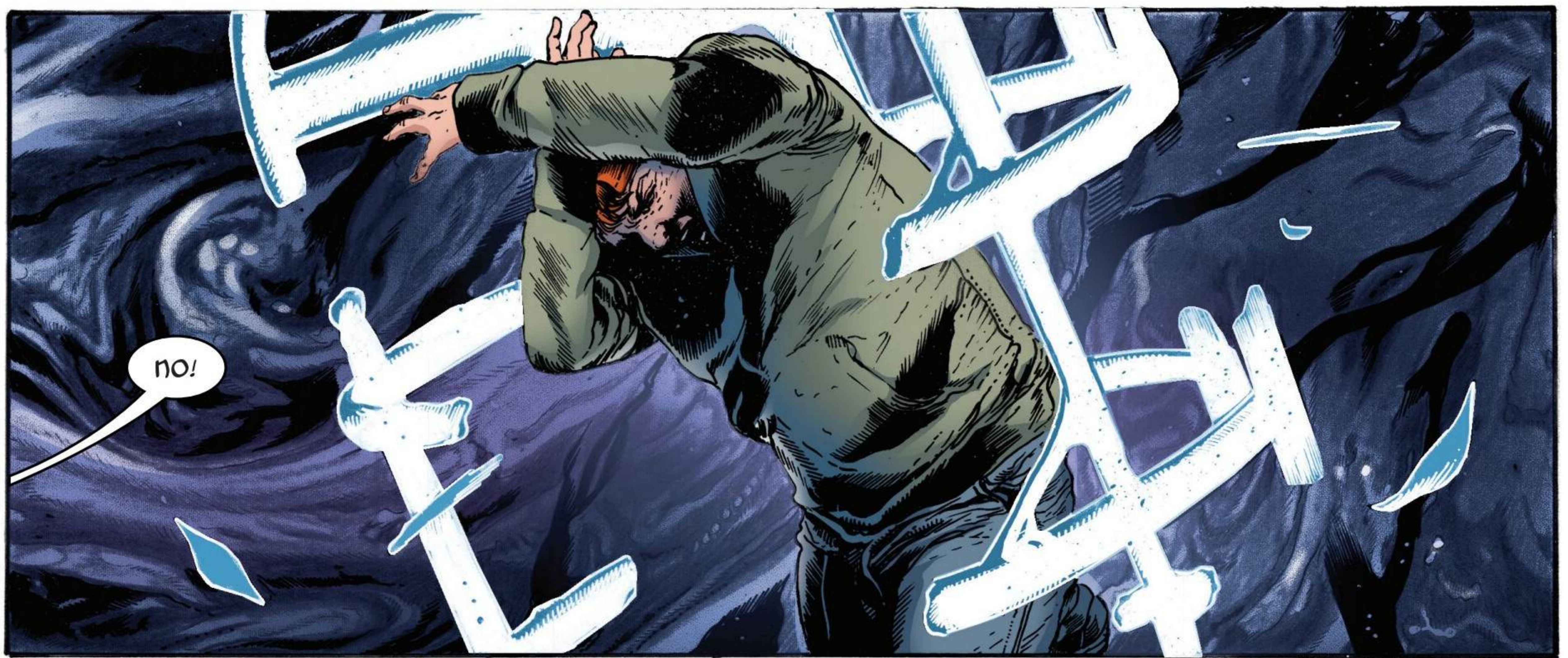


WHAT? JUST TRYING TO FIT IN, OKAY?

IT'S "THOU"--



--AS IN THOU ART NOW TO DIE.





CAP, ARE YOU SURE WE SHOULD LEAVE THOR?



"I THINK THOR CAN HANDLE HIMSELF."



AND HE ISN'T OUR CONCERN RIGHT NOW. **OUR** PROBLEM--

--IS EVERYONE ELSE.



I FOUND OUT THE DARK ASGARDIANS ARE ONLY A **LITTLE** AS STRONG AS THE **REAL** ASGARDIANS... BUT A LOT OF THEM ARE STILL--

A LOT OF THEM.

YEAH.



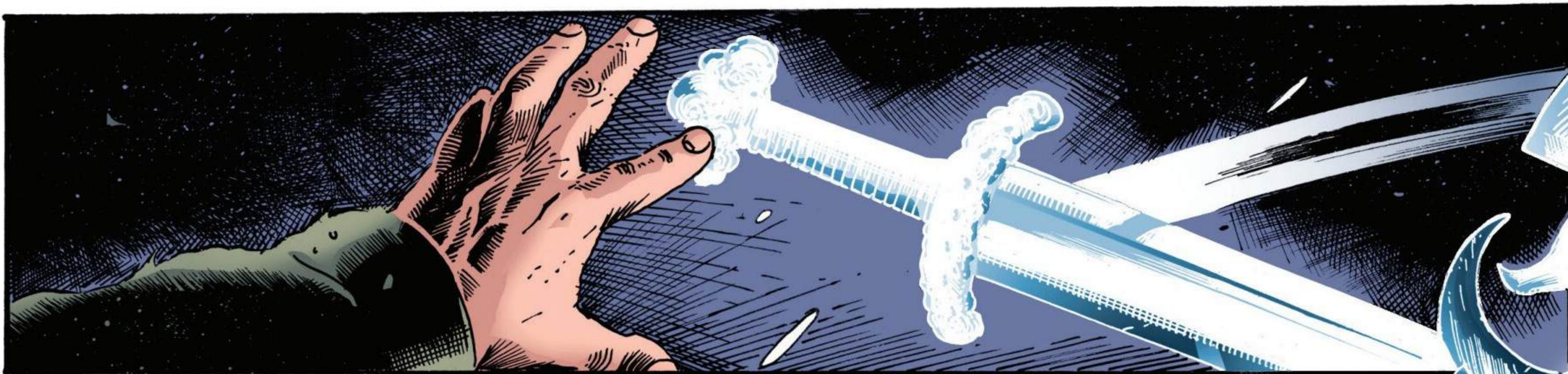
THIS TRAIN DOESN'T STOP FOR **ANYONE** OR **ANYTHING**.

COPY THAT.

I MAY HAVE TO PEE.

NOBODY'S STOPPING YOU.









WHY DO YOU SEEK
TO *DELAY* ME, KELDA?
IF *DARK ASGARD* FALLS,
WE WILL NO LONGER *EXIST*...
WE'LL BE ABSORBED BACK
INTO OUR OTHER, STILL-
LIVING *SELVES*.

BUT YOU...
YOU AND THE *OTHERS*
WHO NO LONGER HAVE
LIVING BODIES TO *RETURN*
TO...NOTHING TO *HOLD* YOU
TO THE WORLD OUTSIDE...
WHAT HAPPENS
TO YOU?

I DON'T
KNOW.

SO YOU ARE
WILLING TO DIE
AGAIN...TO *CEASE*
TO *EXIST*...FOR
YOUR LOVE?

A
THOUSAND
TIMES.

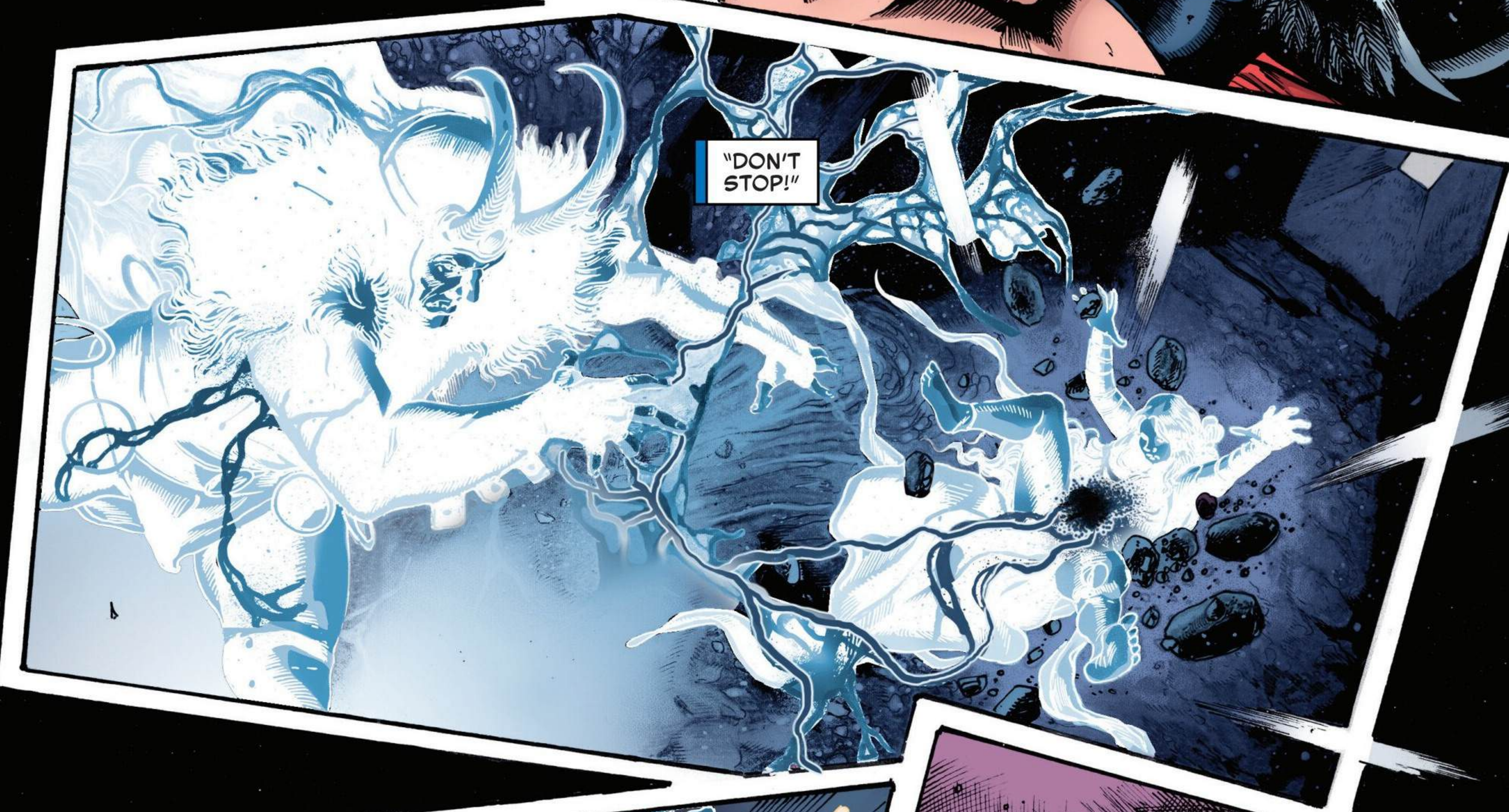
YAAAAA
HHHHH!



WE'RE ALMOST THERE! KEEP GOING! IT'S TOO NARROW FOR THEM TO COME AT US IN FORCE!



"DON'T SLOW DOWN!"



"DON'T STOP!"



KEEP MOVING... TOWARD... TOWARD...



...THE LIGHT...



I DON'T UNDERSTAND... BRINGING HIM OUT WAS SUPPOSED TO RESTORE BROXTON, BUT NOTHING'S HAPPENING.

WE MUST HAVE MISSED SOMETHING. WE--

BILL...







I
DIE--

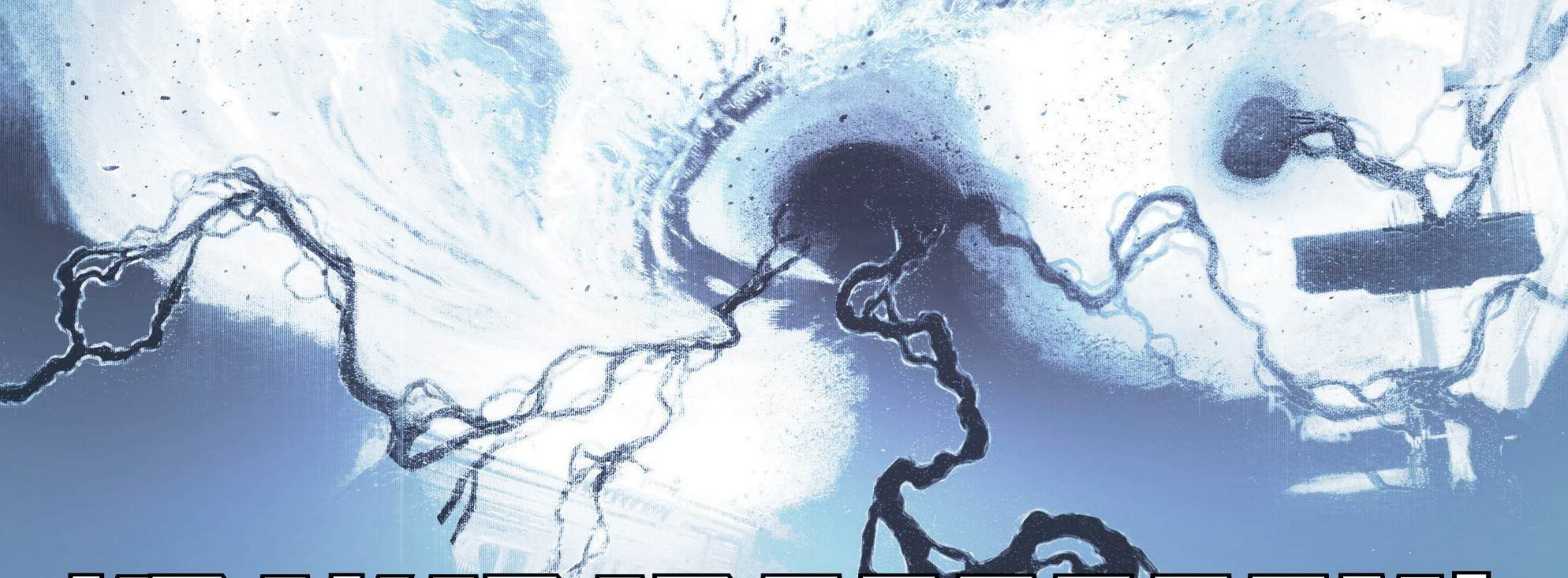
NO, YOU
SHALL LIVE IN
ME...**WE** SHALL
LIVE!

THEN
THERE IS
SOMETHING...
YOU MUST
KNOW...

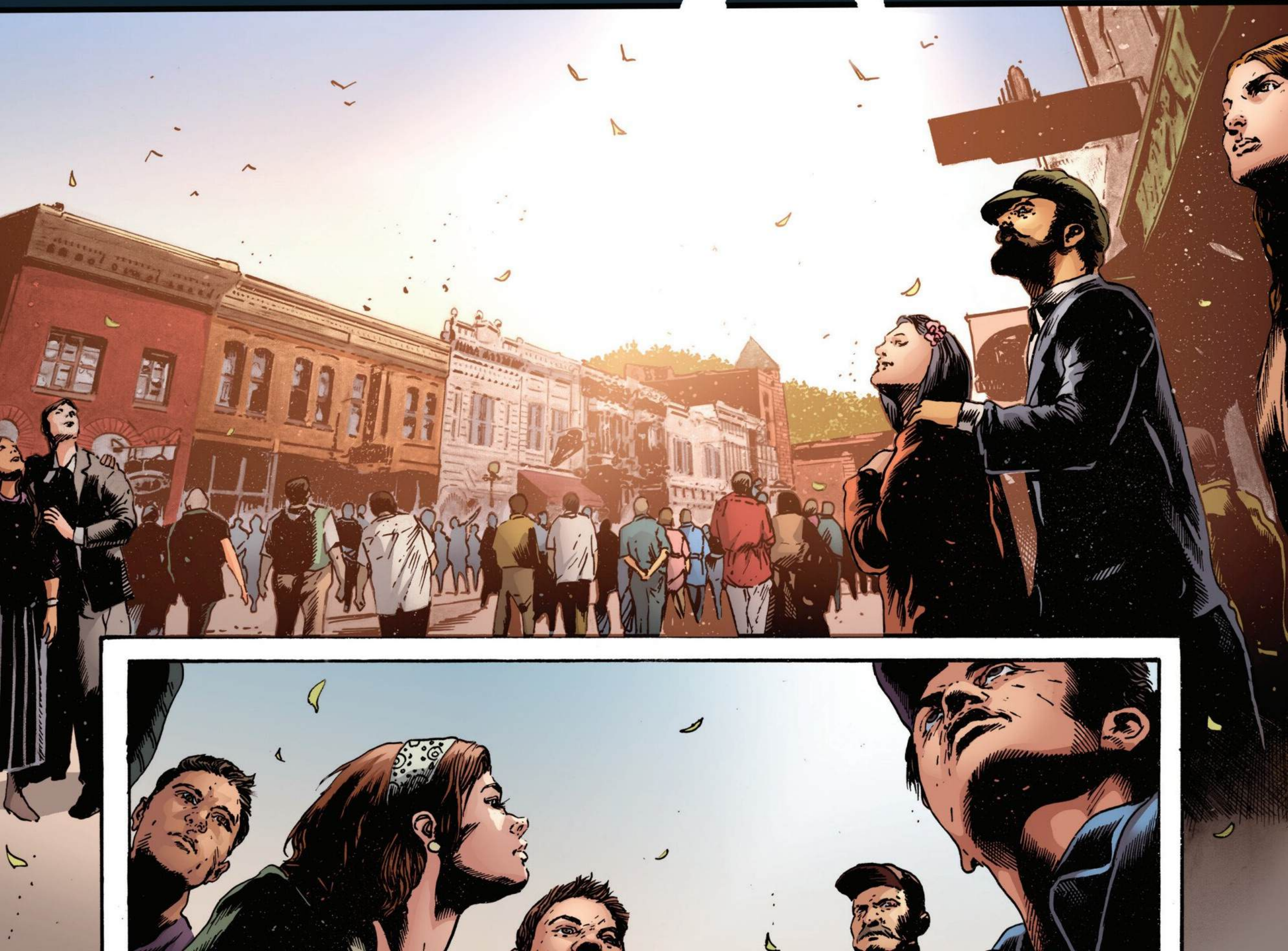
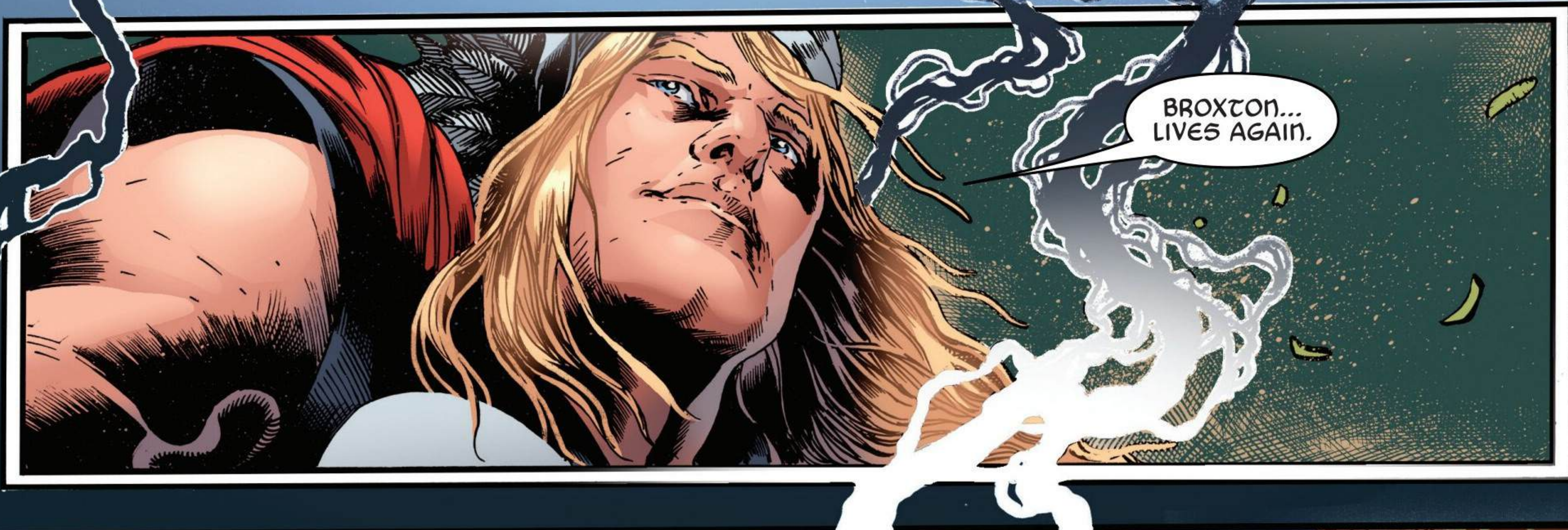
I CAN'T
SEE ANYTHING?
WHAT'S
HAPPENING?

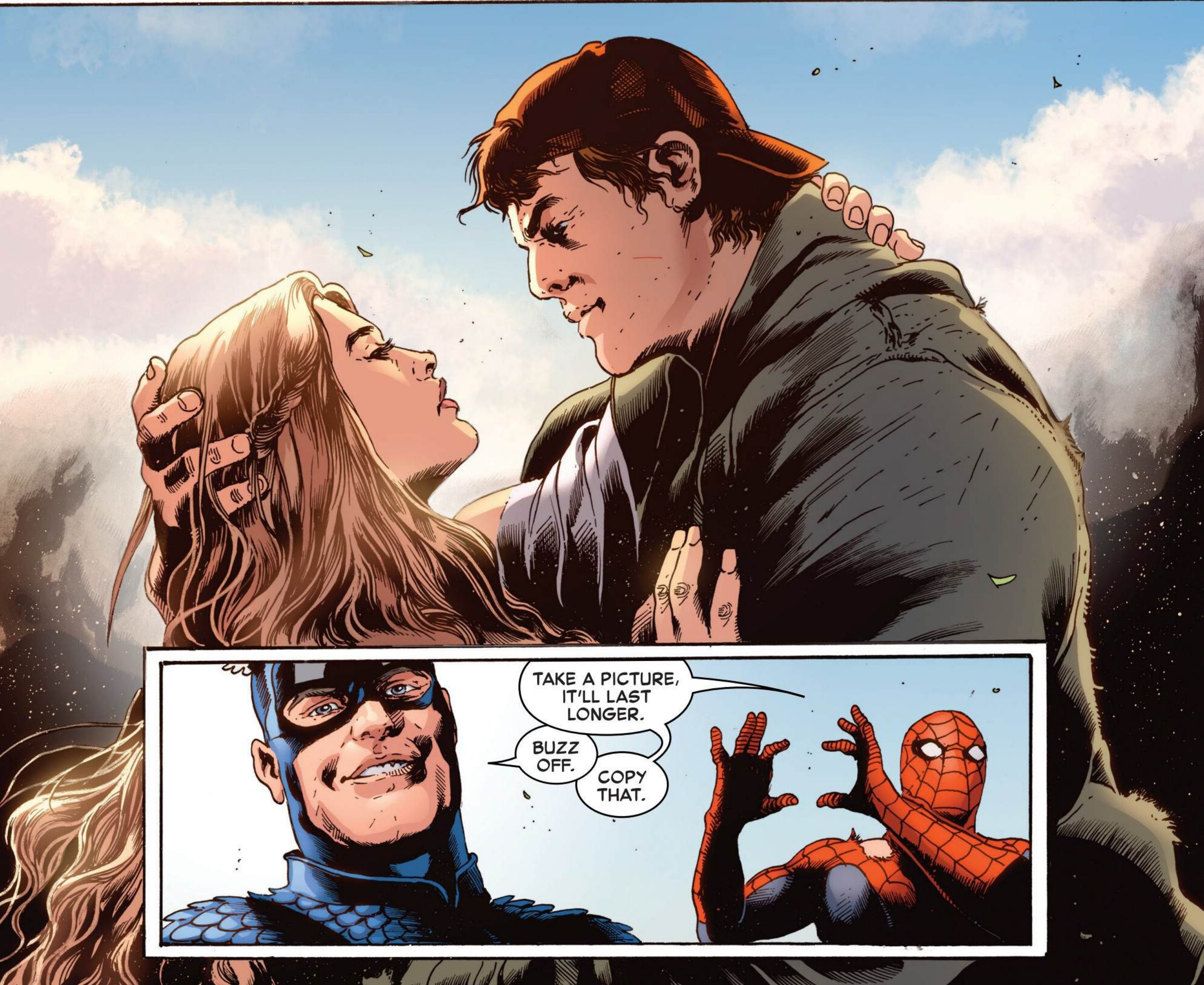
SOMETHING--

--BEAUTIFUL.



KRAKABAD OOOOOOM!







IT'S AS IF NONE OF IT EVER HAPPENED. LIKE THEY JUST BLINKED ONE DAY, THEN BLINKED AGAIN, AND THEY WERE BACK.

IT IS FOR THEIR OWN GOOD. THERE ARE THINGS NO MORTAL SHOULD SEE OR REMEMBER.

I WAS ONCE IN A ROOM WHEN WOLVERINE FARTED.

ONE SUCH EVENT, CLEARLY.

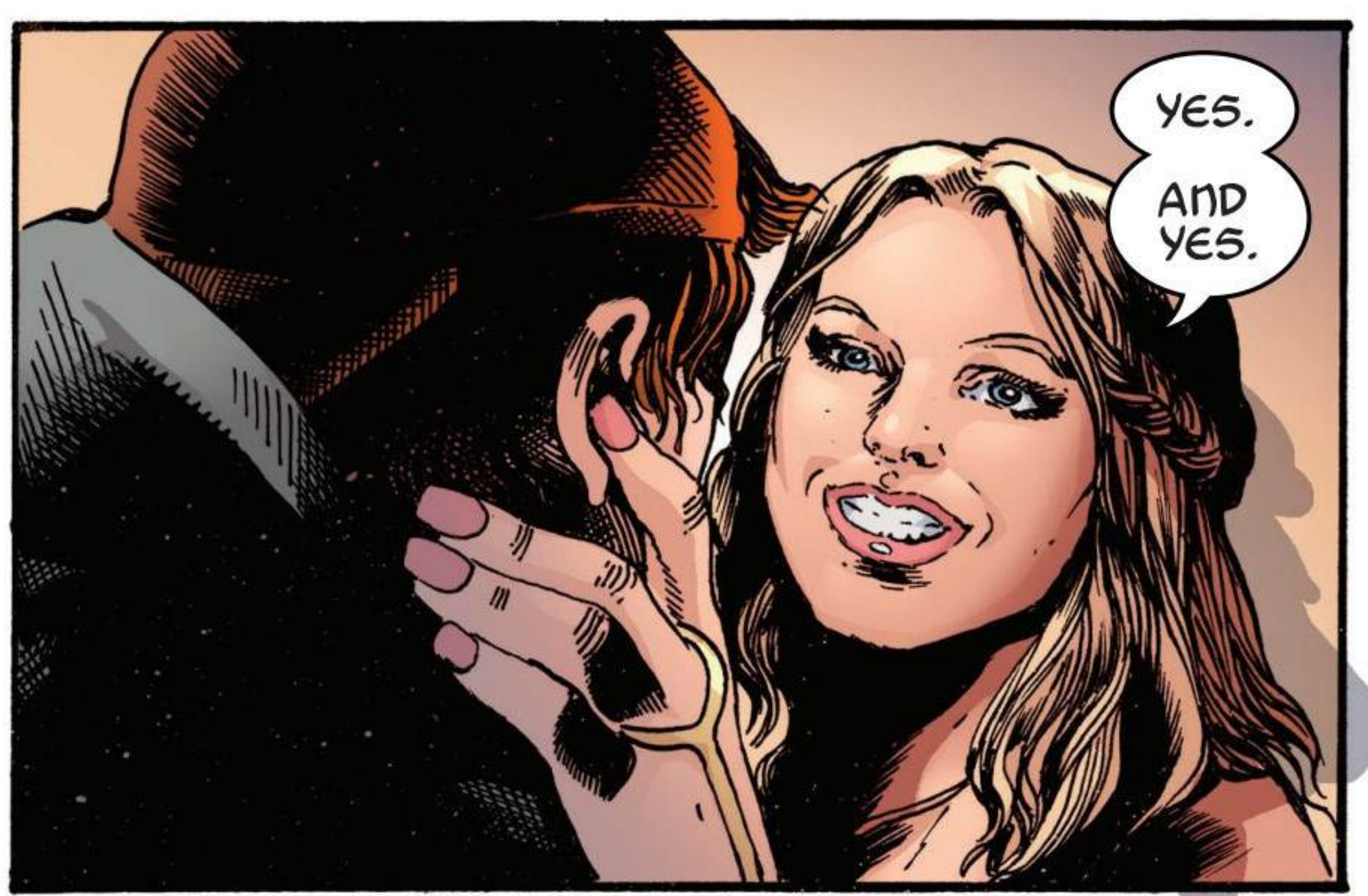
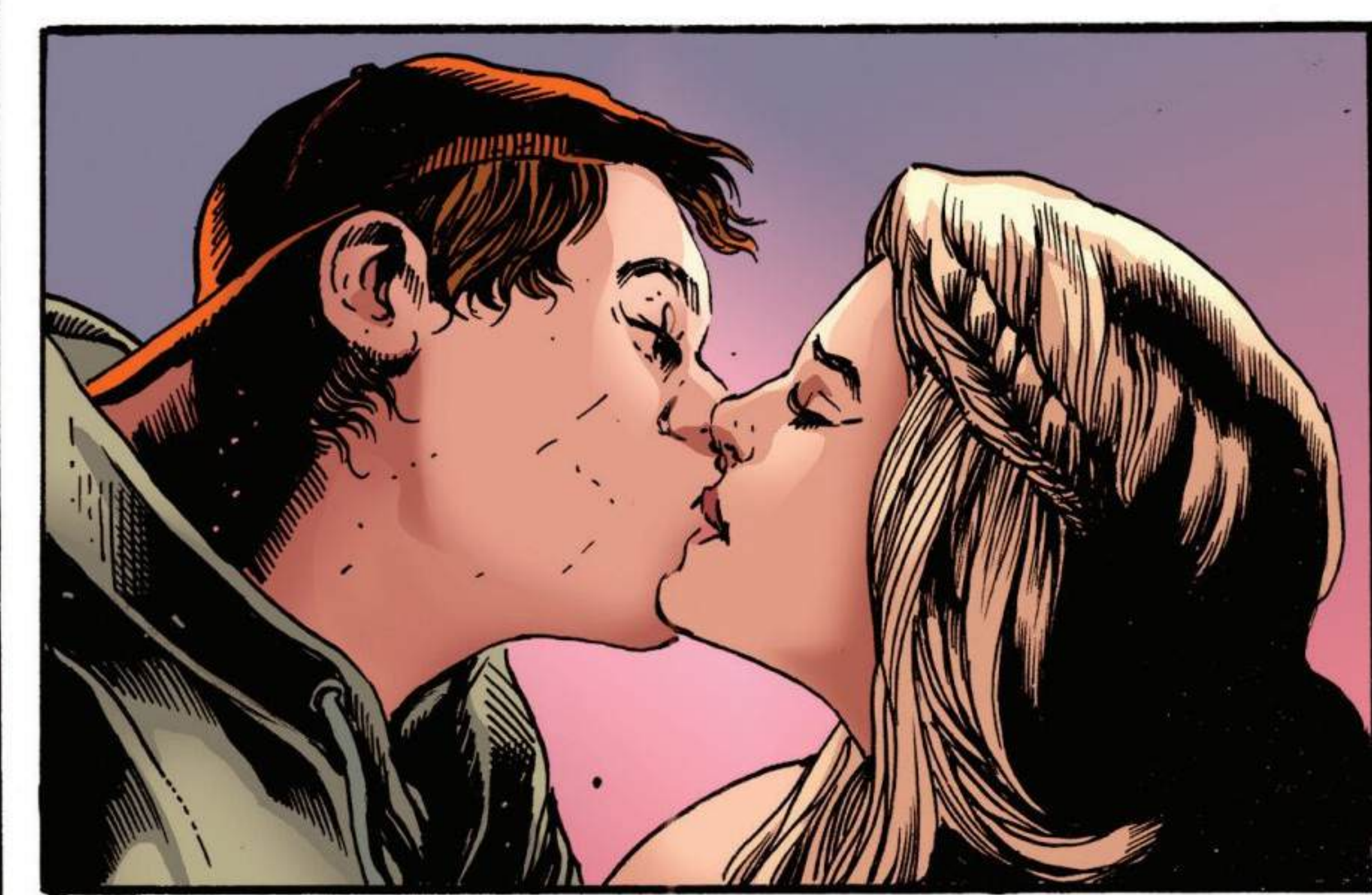


HERE'S WHAT I THINK.

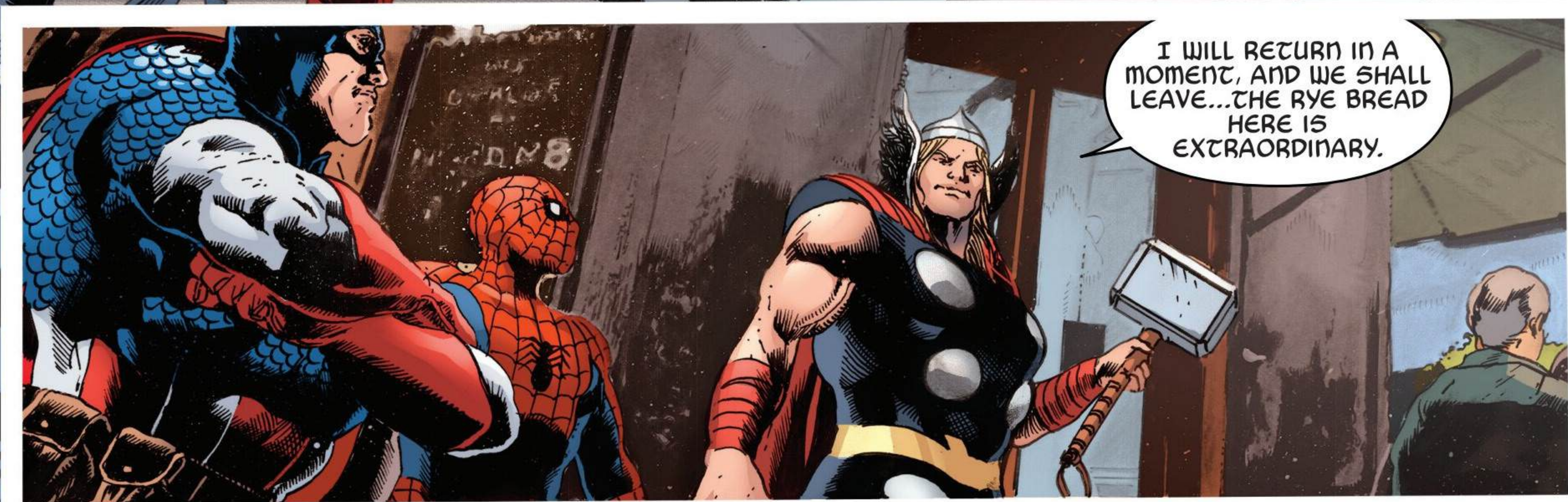


I THINK WE SHOULD GET **MARRIED** BEFORE SOMETHING **ELSE** WACKY HAPPENS.

THAT IS--
DO ASGARDIANS GET MARRIED?



YES.
AND YES.





My thanks to the readers who stuck around during this diversion and are about to embark on a remarkable journey with a new team.

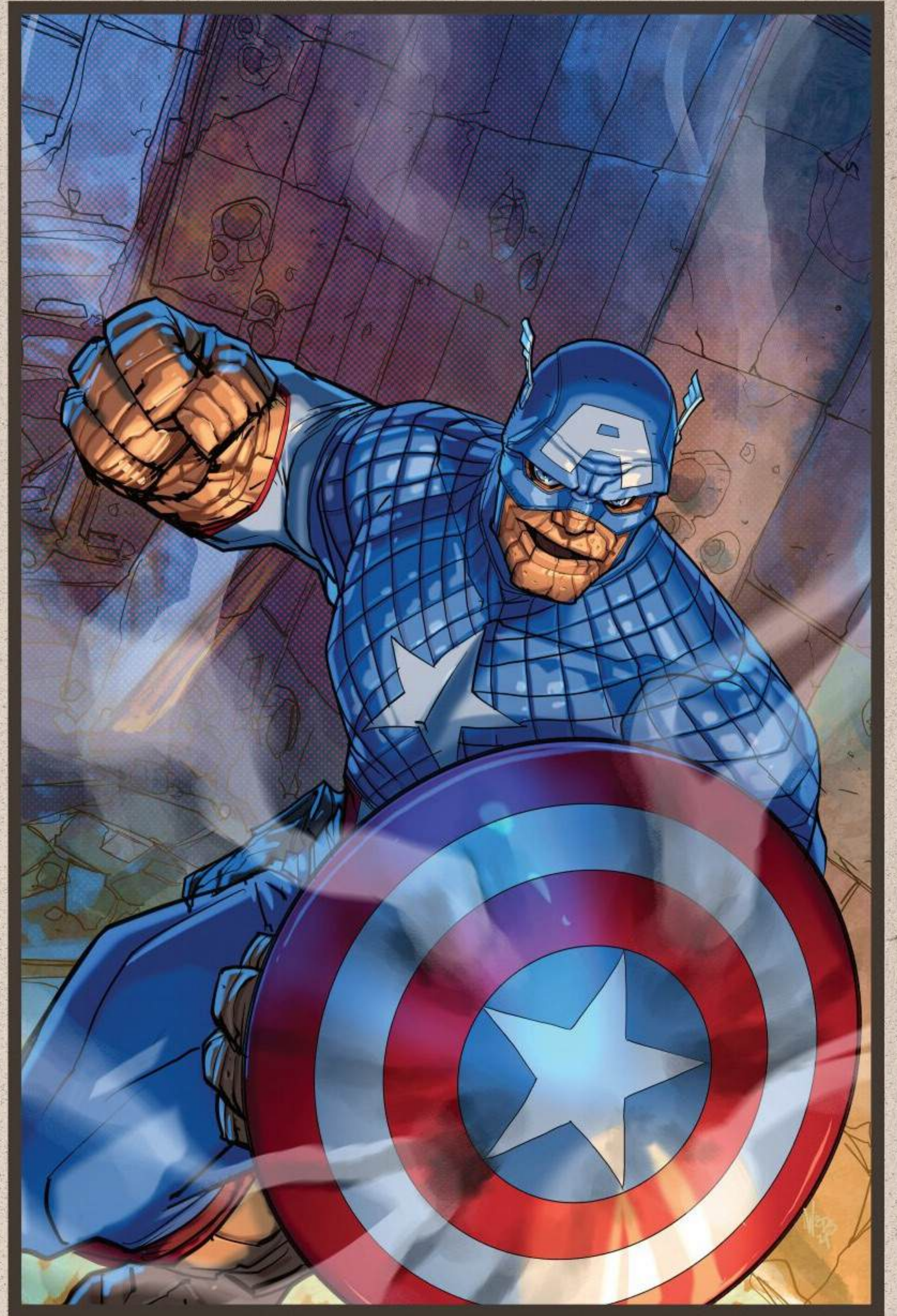
My thanks also to Alanna Smith, Kaitlyn Lindtvedt, MR Daniel, Jesús Saiz, Carlos Magno and all the other massive talents involved with this effort.

Onward and, with luck, upward.

JMS



#14 STORMBREAKERS VARIANT BY
MARTIN COCCOLO & JESUS ABURTOV



#15 THE THING! VARIANT BY
PETE WOODS



#15 VARIANT BY
CORIN HOWELL & KJ DÍAZ



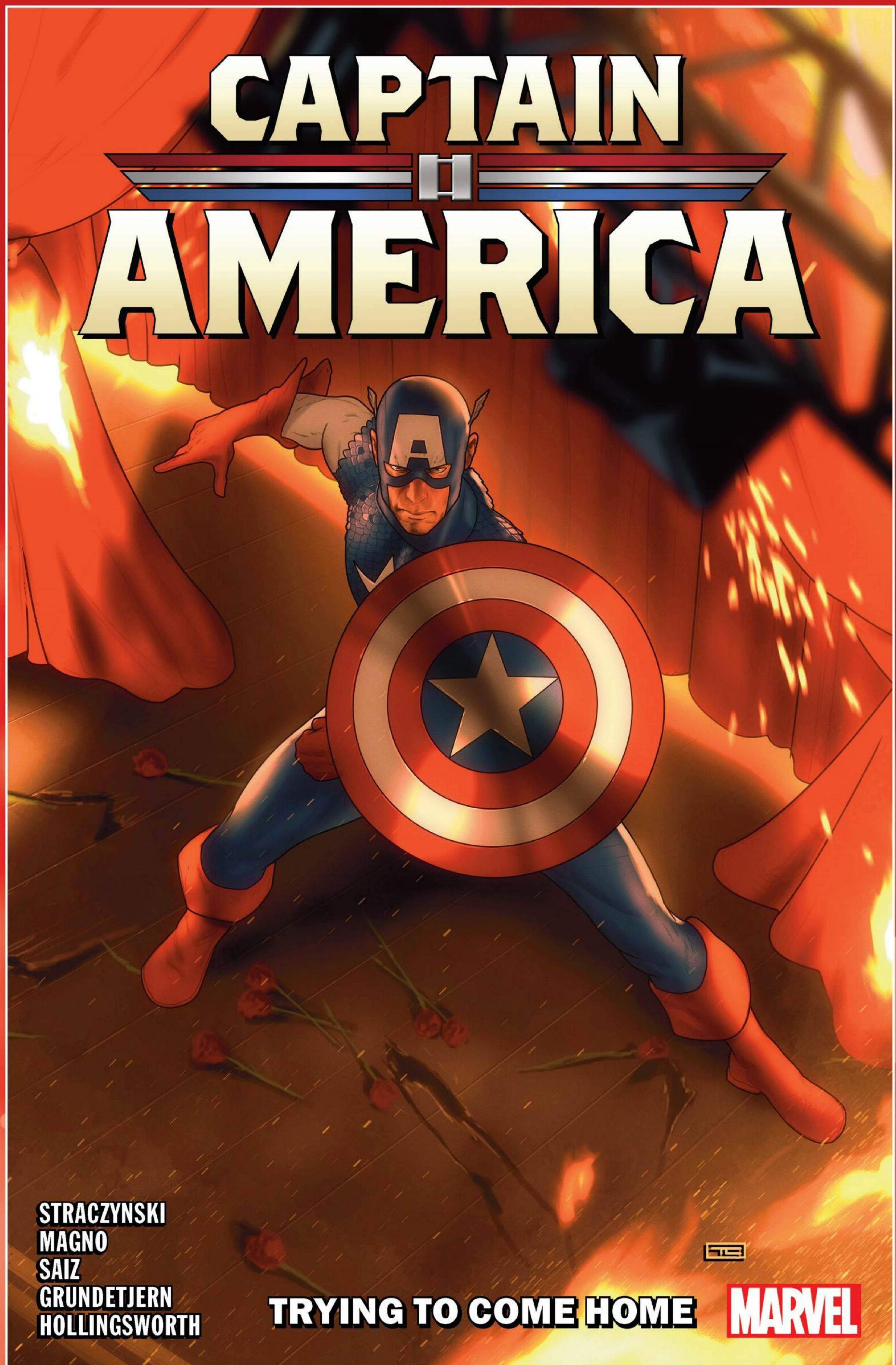
#15 VARIANT BY
JUNGGEUN YOON



#16 VARIANT BY CARLOS MAGNO & ESPEN GRUNDETJERN

MARVEL

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